

## **Municipal Utility vs. Black Hills Energy**

-Black Hills Energy has ratcheted up its campaign recently to convince residents in Pocahontas to vote no on creating a community owned natural gas utility. Their scare tactics have included:

1. Trying to convince us that it is too dangerous for a community to operate its own natural gas utility even though other communities have been safely doing it for decades.
2. Stating that there is no more gas capacity on the pipeline that serves Pocahontas. However, in past cases where a community acquires the right to operate its own system the current gas capacity stayed with that community.
3. Arguing that citizens' gas rates will go up if the community operates its own gas utility. This is simply false. Based on the fact that the City operates as a nonprofit entity, we could offer at least the same and possibly even lower gas rates than Black Hills offers right now.

-The fact of the matter is that Black Hills makes a lot of money from selling gas to Pocahontas. They want to continue to make money off of Pocahontas, money that leaves our community and never returns. Here is some financial information on Black Hills Corporation, the parent company of Black Hills Energy:

FY 2010 for Black Hills Corporation	
Total Revenues	\$1.31 Billion
Net Profit	<b>\$68.7 million</b>

-Net profit comes after they have paid all of their expenses including operating their corporate headquarters in Rapid City, SD, paying bonuses to executives, dividends to shareholders, etc at the same time operating no local office for citizens to voice their concerns.

-Whatever you decide, remember to vote on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Submitted by Pocahontas Municipal Utilities