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News Release

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AUB ISSUES ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Athens, Tenn. – The Athens Utilities Board (AUB) has completed preparation of its annual Water Quality Report. Copies of the report are being distributed to all AUB customers as inserts with utilities bills and to other strategic locations throughout the service area, such as schools, nursing homes, plants, and municipal facilities. The report is also available on AUB’s website.

“Once again we are pleased to report to the community that AUB water exceeds all state and national water quality standards, including stringent EPA standards introduced in recent years,” said AUB spokesman Wayne Scarbrough.

The report that customers now are receiving in their bills includes information about the origin and treatment of AUB water as well as detailed data generated from water sampling and testing throughout 2004.

“We have a year-round program of quality assurance testing, distribution-line maintenance and active water-quality management to ensure that Athens and the surrounding AUB service area have top-quality water,” Water Superintendent Jill Davis said. “The rigorous program pays off year after year with high-quality, safe drinking water, and we are proud to be able to report our ongoing success.”

To ensure safe drinking water at all points, from its source to homes and businesses, AUB performs numerous tests at wells and springs, at the AUB filtering plant where source water is treated, and at points throughout the distribution system, Davis said.

“The results of our detailed testing demonstrate water safety from a contaminant standpoint. The report covers a broad range of possible contaminants common to all water systems and breaks out how AUB water measured up to state and national standards,” Scarbrough said.

Athens drinking water comes from the community’s Ingleside Spring and from wells that tap an aquifer that runs parallel to Oostanaula Creek in Athens. Water from these two sources is treated at AUB’s filtering plant in Athens. A third source is the Hiwassee Utility Commission, which supplies AUB some 18 million gallons per month of treated surface water from the Hiwassee River.

For copies of the AUB 2004 Water Quality Report report, go to AUB’s website at www.aub.org, or call AUB at 745-4501.