



Media Contact:  
Wayne Scarbrough  
(423) 745-4501 ext. 212  
wscarbrough@aub.org

## **News Release**

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### **NATURAL GAS MAIN LINE REPAIRS ON HWY. 30 WILL AFFECT TRAFFIC**

Athens, Tenn. – Athens Utilities Board (AUB) will close a portion of Highway 30 (Decatur Pike) near the intersection of Maple Street at approximately 8 a.m. on Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, to make repairs to a one of its main lines.

Traffic will still be able to flow in both directions at the job site, but traffic control will be in place to ensure the safety of the work crews and the public, said AUB spokesman Wayne Scarbrough.

The utility is coordinating traffic control with the city of Athens. “Early morning travelers will see city representatives initiating traffic control about an hour before AUB’s work starts by placing barriers and cones around the work area,” Scarbrough said.

The duration of the closure is uncertain and is dependent upon the conditions found when AUB crews dig beneath the roadway and uncover the origin and exact nature of repairs required.

The repair is required due to a small leak that was identified during a recent leak-detection survey performed by AUB. The utility routinely conducts federally-required leak testing of its entire natural gas distribution system around Athens and surrounding communities served by the utility’s natural gas division.

The gas line being examined is a three-inch main. The leak survey provides a valuable safety service to AUB customers and ensures a healthy distribution system for the future.

The leak on Highway 30 does not pose a risk to area residents or to the environment and is not of sufficient magnitude to necessitate escalated action under regulatory guidelines, according to AUB. Nonetheless, AUB is taking steps to pinpoint the leak and make repairs as soon as possible.

If weather conditions are unsuitable the work will be rescheduled with announcements of any time changes made public as early as possible, Scarbrough said.

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