



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

News Release

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AUB CONTINUES UPGRADE OF DOWNTOWN POWER SYSTEM; OUTAGE PLANNED FOR AUGUST 30

ATHENS, Tenn. – Athens Utilities Board (AUB) plans to undertake phase two of a downtown power system upgrade Thursday evening, Sept. 1. The work will cause some downtown area customers to be without power for up to three hours, though crews will strive to keep the outage to a minimum.

The work will begin at 7 p.m., depending on weather conditions and system operations. AUB spokesman Wayne Scarbrough said that this phase of the upgrade will affect considerably more customers than phase one.

“We’ll have approximately 100 customer accounts off while crews work to switch them from the old four-kilovolt system to a more reliable 13-KV system,” Scarbrough said. “We’re working with all customers to ensure as smooth a job as possible, personally contacting everyone we can.”

The affected area includes portions of the following streets in the downtown area: Church Street, Hornsby Street, Hill Street, Washington Ave., Madison Ave., Kilgore Street, Douglas Street, Bank Street, Woodman Street, and Scott Street.

Crews will start the work at 7 p.m. instead of waiting until later in the night because the initial portions of the job involve “hot work” with energized lines. Beginning at 7 p.m. allows the crews to work in daylight as long as possible as a safety measure while minimizing the affect on businesses.

Scarbrough acknowledges that there is never a good time for a power outage, but the work cannot be done without taking the power down for a short time, he said.

“We know it’s an inconvenience and ask for our customers’ patience. The work can be dangerous and demanding, so we must take all possible safety measures for the crews,” he explained.

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