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News Release

For Immediate Release

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AUB TO CONDUCT SPRING FLUSH

ATHENS, Tenn. – Athens Utilities Board (AUB) will flush fire hydrants throughout the city beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 27, weather permitting.

The work will involve several teams of AUB crewmembers that will begin work simultaneously at various points throughout the system of hydrants. The effort will continue throughout the night until all hydrants have been flushed. Work should be completed by sunrise on Saturday the 28th.

Residents throughout the service area may experience low pressure and, possibly, cloudy water as sediment is flushed from lines. Therefore, customers are advised not to wash clothes Friday night and throughout the following day if possible.

Flushing the lines is preventive maintenance that ensures clean, sediment-free water year round.

Crews will open each hydrant on the system for several minutes, until they verify that the water is clean with minimal sediment. Some hydrants may remain open longer, at a “lazy stream” pace, for several hours depending on their position in the system.

AUB urges area residents to keep these things in mind relative to water usage on Friday night and the following Saturday:

- During the flushing, residents may experience times of low water pressure due to the loss of head pressure in the AUB reservoirs that supply water to the system. Low water pressure will likely begin around 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. and will come and go throughout the night as various areas are flushed. A pump will run continuously at AUB’s water plant to help keep as much water in supply reservoirs as possible, but low-pressure periods in some areas during the work will be likely.
- Overnight on Friday, and even throughout Saturday when the work is finished, some areas may have slightly cloudy water. This is typical and primarily is the result of small entrained air bubbles that will dissipate with time. Some cloudiness may be the result of sediment being washed free of the lines by the high-velocity, high-volume water circulated through the system.
- Because of the possibility of sediment in the water, area residents should avoid washing clothes during the work, and especially on Saturday following the work. Washing during these time periods could result in clothes that are dingy or discolored.

To protect streams and aquatic life, AUB uses a compound called sodium thiosulfate to neutralize chlorine in the higher-than-normal volume of water that is drained from the system in a relatively short period.