



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Update #2

For more information, contact:

Marie A. Crawford, Director of Communications  
501.377.1229  
501.831.1992

**For immediate release: July 3, 2009**

### **Central Arkansas Water expects to complete University Avenue transmission main repair by early morning, continues system flushing to eliminate discoloration at tap of affected customers**

LITTLE ROCK — Central Arkansas Water (CAW) expects by early morning (Saturday, July 4, 2009) to finish up repairs to a damaged transmission water main near the intersection of University Avenue and Kavanaugh Boulevard. Utility crews will work through the night on the repair and are continuing to flush discolored water out of the distribution pipeline system in the areas of Pulaski Heights, Hillcrest, and Cantrell Road just east of Interstate 430.

**Marie A. Crawford**, Director of Communications, said the utility anticipates completing the repairs by 2 a.m. Saturday morning. She stresses that two construction crews are on the project to expedite and facilitate the work.

“CAW crews will be on-site until we complete the job,” she states. “We are working diligently to place the line back into service and resume normal distribution system operations.”

At approximately 12:45 p.m. today (Friday, July 3, 2009), CAW received a report of a break on a 16-inch-diameter transmission main that serves the water utility’s Pulaski Heights Pressure System. Crews isolated the damaged segment of the transmission main at approximately 3:23 p.m. and began repairs.

The transmission main is a major feeder line for the water system. And, as a result of the break on the transmission main and the loss of flow to the area, the water utility had to increase the flow and velocity of water to the affected area through other water mains. The break on the water line, plus the necessary changes in the operation of distribution system facilities, resulted

in discolored water at the tap of customers in the areas of Pulaski Heights, Hillcrest, and Cantrell Road east of I-430.

Crawford states that the cause of the discoloration is a natural element, manganese. She explains that an interruption in the flow of water through a transmission main because of occurrences, such as a water main break or the increased flow or increased velocity of water, can cause the scouring of manganese that has built up on the lining of a water main over time. The manganese, a natural element, does not adversely impact the safety of the water for human consumption.

The utility does advise customers NOT TO wash clothing in the discolored water because it can stain fabric. The utility advises customers to wait until the discoloration clears before washing clothing.

The location of the break on the 16-inch-diameter transmission main is near the intersection of University Avenue and Kavanaugh Boulevard. The cause of the water line failure is unknown at this time.

Customers with questions may contact the CAW Distribution Dispatch Center day or night at 377.1239. The water utility has personnel available to answer customer inquiries.

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