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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City to switch disinfectants temporarily

Rocky Mount, N.C. – On an annual basis since 2003, the city of Rocky Mount has temporarily used a different disinfectant in its water supply. A conversion to chlorine will begin Wednesday, June 1, 2022 and will last for up to 30 days to clear the system of ammonia, which can serve as potential food for certain types of microorganisms.

According to the American Water Works Association and the North Carolina Public Water Supply, switching to chlorine periodically is a recommended practice for water systems that use chloramine as a residual disinfectant.

Customers may notice a chlorine taste or odor in the tap water during the change. The water is safe for drinking, cooking, bathing and other uses. During this time, sampling and testing to monitor the effectiveness of the temporary switch to chlorine will be done.

Users of home kidney dialysis machines, owners of tropical fish aquariums and managers of stores and restaurants with fish and shellfish holding tanks, are advised that the methods for testing and removing chlorine residuals differ from those used for chloramine residuals.

For more information, please contact Jim Connolly at 252-972-1336 or Utility Dispatch at 252-467-4800.

About Rocky Mount

The city of Rocky Mount, located in the Coastal Plains of North Carolina, was incorporated in 1867 and lies in Edgecombe and Nash Counties. Rocky Mount is a two-time All-America City on the Tar River. The city was recognized as one of 10 winners nationwide of the 2020-21 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize. Serving as the Gateway to Eastern North Carolina, the city's 875 employees serve approximately 58,000 residents daily.

The city's mission is to advance community well-being, safety and quality of life by delivering excellent public services and actively collaborating with the community toward a fulfilling and inspired future for its citizens. As a publicly owned utility, the city of Rocky Mount is committed to safe, reliable service for its customers and operates in Nash and Edgecombe counties, providing customers with electricity, natural gas, water, wastewater (sewer), refuse, recycling and/or stormwater services. To learn more, visit www.rockymountnc.gov for news and updates.

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