FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Utilities Division

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Customers Can Connect to Southpoint Water Line

FAYETTEVILLE – Cumberland County's water line bringing potable, public water to the Southpoint community in the southwestern part of the county is ready for connections. Property owners along the line were notified earlier in July with the specifics on how to connect.

Beginning in August, a \$12 monthly availability fee will be charged to all owners whose property has access to the county water line, whether they are connecting and using water or not. Once customers connect and begin using water, they will be charged for usage according to the rate schedule. There is a minimum charge of \$22 for the first 2,000 gallons and additional charges for exceeding this amount.

The connection from the house to the water meter box is the responsibility of the property owner. Homeowners must obtain a permit from the Cumberland County Planning and Inspection Department. They may do the work themselves only if they reside at the property or they must use a licensed plumber. Commercial properties, including churches and all rental properties, must use a licensed plumber to install the service line.

Water meters are being installed on Fridays, but only after a refundable \$100 deposit has been paid to the Cumberland County Public Utilities Division and after the Inspections Department has completed their final inspection of the line.

Cumberland County is purchasing the water from the Bladen County Regional Water System. Cumberland County owns the lines and its Public Utilities Division will read the water meters and bill customers.

Southpoint is a subdivision off Chickenfoot Road where some wells were found to be contaminated. The county received a \$617,500 Clean Water Revolving Loan from the state for the project, and construction started in October. The county conducted an early sign-up period for property owners to access the water line in December.

For more information, contact the Public Utilities Division at 678-7682 or go to http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/public utilities.aspx. The Public Utilities Office is located in Room 215 of the Historic Courthouse at 130 Gillespie St. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m.