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SPARTANBURG WATER FIRST UTILITY IN COUNTRY TO WIN NATIONAL ETHICS AWARD FROM NASBA CENTER FOR THE PUBLIC TRUST

May 20, 2010 – (Spartanburg, SC) – The greater Spartanburg community gets more than safe, reliable drinking water and environmentally sound wastewater treatment from Spartanburg Water. It also gets a workforce taught to exhibit ethical behavior and a positive outlook. In recent years the utility has put a number of programs in place to promote integrity, respect, and accountability in its culture. It also embraces its role as an active community participant. Thanks to these efforts, Spartanburg Water has been selected to receive the “*Being A Difference Award*” given by the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) Center for the Public Trust. The award will be acknowledged at the upcoming Spartanburg Sanitary Sewer District Commission Meeting at **2:15 PM on Tuesday, May 25, 2010**.

“We are all just so honored to receive this recognition,” comments Sue Schneider, Spartanburg Water General Manager. “Too often we hear about companies taking shortcuts, not owning up to their mistakes or employees who get into trouble for misuse of their customers’ resources and trust. We have worked hard to weave ethics, responsibility, and integrity into what we do every day here at Spartanburg Water. And to be the first utility to earn this distinction is a tribute to our entire staff and the difference they make in the community.”

In choosing Spartanburg Water, the Center for the Public Trust (CPT) considered several key practices the utility has in place, such as:

- Constructing policies and procedures for every aspect of their operations including ethically complex issues such as, appropriate use of company property and resources, conflicts of interest, harassment, equal opportunity, compliance with various regulations, procurement of goods and services, privacy, public perception of appropriateness, etc.
- Instituting ethics training for its employees on a regular basis, providing participants the opportunity to role play through questionable situations and gain a better understanding of unintended consequences
- Establishing an anonymous ethics hotline for employees

- Implementing an effective management assurance program (MAP) for fraud prevention and deterrence.
- Publishing an annual financial report, audited by a certified public accountant, which has been awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the past seven years by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA)

Schneider adds, “We believe we have built a holistic, principles-focused program that fosters and rewards ethical business practices and personal behavior. It makes Spartanburg Water a positive place for our employees to work, which translates into better service for our customers, better stewardship of our natural and financial resources, and overall accountability for our actions.”

In selecting Spartanburg Water as a “*Being a Difference Award*” recipient, CPT also took into account the utility’s community activities. Some of these efforts include: Earth Day and National Drinking Water Week events, the Pontoon Classroom, an educational exhibit at the Spartanburg Science Center, plus participation in the Good Neighbor program, United Way, Leadership Spartanburg, and a host of other activities.

Collectively, Spartanburg Water’s 260 employees serve over 55,000 accounts and a combined population of nearly 200,000 people. For more information about Spartanburg Water, please visit www.spartanburgwater.org.

The NASBA Center for the Public Trust (CPT) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to engender and foster confidence and trust in American corporations and institutions and the professions that serve them. For more information, please visit www.centerforpublictrust.org.

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Spartanburg Water – An Award Winning Utility