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Environment Department Lifts “BOIL WATER ORDER” for Pie Town MDWCA

(Albuquerque, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau has advised the Pie Town MDWCA in Catron County to lift a “boil water order” for its water system.

The Pie Town MDWCA, which is located on the northern edge of Catron County on Highway 60 and serves approximately 100 residents, was put on a “Boil Water Advisory” on July 30 due to bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for *E. coli*. NMED required that the system’s owner and operator notify all the consumers served by the system of this finding.

Actions to disinfect the water system and identify possible sources of contamination were promptly taken. These actions included chlorination and flushing of the affected portion of the water system and collecting special samples throughout the system.

Water samples collected since the chlorination and flushing have shown no Total Coliform or *E.coli* bacteria in the water system. These clean results have allowed NMED’s Drinking Water Bureau to advise the Pie Town MDWCA to lift the “boil water order” for its water system.

The presence of *E. coli* in water indicates that the water may have been in contact with sewage or animal wastes, and could contain disease-causing organisms. Most strains of *E.coli* are harmless and live in the intestines of healthy humans and animals. However, a positive test for *E. coli* in the drinking water supply may indicate the presence of dangerous strains of *E.coli* or other disease-causing organisms, which are sometimes found in sewage or animal wastes. These types of organisms may cause severe gastrointestinal illness and, in rare cases, even death. Children, the elderly, and immuno-compromised individuals are at an increased risk for illness.

The New Mexico Department of Health will remain on alert for any health effects linked to this water quality issue. For more information contact Marissa Stone, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314 or Charles Thomas, Area Manager at (505) 222-9532.

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