



BILL RICHARDSON  
Governor  
DIANE DENISH  
Lieutenant Governor

NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

*Office of the Secretary*

Harold Runnels Building  
1190 Saint Francis Drive (87505)  
PO Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469  
Phone (505) 827-2855 Fax (505) 827-2836  
[www.nmenv.state.nm.us](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us)



RON CURRY  
Secretary  
SARAH COTTRELL  
Deputy Secretary

September 24, 2010  
For Immediate Release

Contact: Marissa Stone Bardino, NMED Communications Director  
(505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475

**Environment Department Issues “Boil Water Advisory” for Estancia Water System**

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau advised the Estancia water system to issue a “boil water advisory” for its water system.

NMED issued the advisory on September 24th after bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level for E. coli was discovered in drinking water from the water system. NMED requires Estancia water system in Torrance County to notify its consumers of the finding.

Consumers of water from the Estancia water system are advised to boil water for five minutes before drinking, cooking and dishwashing or to use bottled water if at all possible.

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.

Actions have been initiated to disinfect the water system and identify possible sources of contamination. The Drinking Water Bureau will continue to assist the water system and help identify the source of the problem.

For more information, call Marissa Stone Bardino at (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475, Mike Huber at (505) 660-3834, or Joe Savage at (575) 258-3272 or (575) 973-0009.

###