



NEW MEXICO
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For Immediate Release

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Environment Department Lifts “Boil Water Advisory” for El Vadito de Los Cerrillos Water Association Water System

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau has issued a “boil water advisory” for the El Vadito de Los Cerrillos Water Association Water System.

NMED issued the advisory on July 23, 2010 after bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for E. coli was discovered in drinking water at the water system. NMED requires the El Vadito de Los Cerrillos Water Association to notify water consumers of the finding. The El Vadito de Los Cerrillos Water Association Water System is located approximately 20 miles south of Santa Fe. This advisory only applied to customers served by the El Vadito de Los Cerrillos Water Association, and did not extend to any of the other surrounding water systems or communities.

Consumers of water at the El Vadito de Los Cerrillos Water Association Water System were advised to boil the water for five minutes before drinking, cooking, dishwashing and bathing. 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. These types of organisms may cause severe gastrointestinal illness and, in rare cases, death. Children, the elderly and immuno-compromised individuals are at an increased risk for illness.

The NMED Drinking Water Bureau provided technical assistance to the water system and determined that adequate disinfection (chlorination) is provided at a level that mitigates the potential threat to public health. The El Vadito de Los Cerrillos Water Association will maintain a regular monitoring schedule to ensure adequate levels of disinfection, and continue to test the distribution system for the presence of E. coli.

For more information, call NMED Communications Director Marissa Stone Bardino at (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475 or Violette Valerio-Hirschfeld, New Mexico Environment Department, Drinking Water Bureau, District II Manager, at (505) 476-8636.

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