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December 15, 2011
For Immediate Release

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Environment Department Issues “Boil Water Advisory” for CHILILI WATER USERS ASSOCIATION in Bernalillo County
Customers are urged to Boil Water Prior to Drinking

(Santa Fe, N.M.) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau issued a “boil water advisory” for the Chilili Water Users Assn.

NMED issued the advisory on December 15, 2011 after bacteriological contamination (*E. coli*) was detected and confirmed in drinking water samples from the system. NMED requires Chilili Water Users Association, located near Tijeras New Mexico in Bernalillo County, to notify water consumers of this finding. Chilili Water Users Association serves approximately one hundred residents in Bernalillo County. This advisory only applies to the drinking water from the Chilili Water Users Assn, and does not extend to any other surrounding water systems

Consumers of the Chilili Water Users Association are 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 will provide technical assistance to the water system and Chilili Water Users Association will continue to test the water until no further threat of contamination remains.

For more information, call NMED Communications Director Jim Winchester at (505) 827-0314 or Glenn DeGuzman, Drinking Water Bureau District I Water System Specialist, at (505) 222-9538.

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