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ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



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August 7, 2011
For Immediate Release

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Environment Department Issues “Boil Water Advisory” for Agua Pura MDWCA Water System in Mora 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 Agua Pura MDWCA Water System.

NMED issued the advisory on August 7, 2011 after bacteriological contamination (*E. coli*) was detected and confirmed in drinking water samples from the system. NMED requires Agua Pura MDWCA, located near Chacon New Mexico in Mora County, to notify water consumers of this finding .

This advisory only applies to the drinking water at the Agua Pura MDWCA Water System, and does not extend to any of the other surrounding water systems.

Consumers of the Agua Pura MDWCA Water System 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 Agua Pura MDWCA 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 Violette Valerio-Hirschfield, Drinking Water Bureau District II Manager, at (505) 476-8636.

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