



SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR

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NEWS RELEASE

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NMENV Issues “Drinking Water Warning” for Desert Ranch in Curry County

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMENV) Drinking Water Bureau advised the Desert Ranch MDWCA (Mutual Domestic Water Consumer’s Association) to issue a “drinking water warning” for its water system.

NMENV issued the advisory on June 9, 2011 after nitrate results on drinking water from one of its wells exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) established by the US EPA. NMENV requires Desert Ranch MDWCA water system, a small community located west of Clovis, New Mexico in Curry County with approximately 50 service connections, to notify its consumers of the finding. The water supplied to adjacent areas by other water suppliers is not affected and is not under this warning.

Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome. Blue baby syndrome can develop rapidly, with health deteriorating over a period of days. If symptoms occur, seek medical attention immediately. Water, juice, and formula for children under six months of age should not be prepared with tap water. Bottled water or other water low in nitrates should be used for infants until further notice.

Consumers of water from the Desert Ranch MDWCA water system are advised to use bottled water for drinking, preparing baby formula, and preparing food if at all possible.

The Desert Ranch MDWCA has discontinued use of the contaminated well until a long term solution is found. The Drinking Water Bureau will continue to assist the water system and help correct the problem.

For more information, call NMENV Communications Director Jim Winchester at (505) 231-8800 or the Area Manager, Joseph Savage at (575) 437-7115.

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