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For Immediate Release

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Environment Department Issues “Boil Water Advisory” for South Hills Water Company 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 South Hills Water Company water system.

NMED issued the advisory on August 10, 2011 after bacteriological contamination (*E. coli*) was detected and confirmed in drinking water samples from the system. NMED requires the South Hills Water Company to notify water consumers of their water system of this finding. Southern Hills Water Company serves approximately 200 homes in southwest Albuquerque near the intersection of Coors Blvd and Don Felipe Rd of this finding. This water service is separate from customers served by the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority.

This advisory only applies to the drinking water from the South Hills Water Company water system, and does not extend to the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Users Authority water system or any other surrounding water systems.

Consumers of the South Hills Water Company 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 immunocompromised individuals are at an increased risk for illness.

The NMED Drinking Water Bureau will provide technical assistance to the water system and South Hills Water Company 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 Nora Romero, Drinking Water Bureau District I Manager, at (505) 222-9531.

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