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NEWS RELEASE
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Environment Department Issues "Boil Water Advisory" for La Bajada in Santa Fe 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 La Bajada Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) water system.

NMED issued the advisory on November 7, 2011 after bacteriological contamination (*E. coli*) was detected and confirmed in drinking water samples from the system. NMED requires the La Bajada MDWCA water system to notify water consumers of their water system of this finding. La Bajada MDWCA serves approximately forty residents in the central portion of Santa Fe County. This advisory only applies to the drinking water from the La Bajada MDWCA water system, and does not extend to any other surrounding water systems.

Consumers of the La Bajada MDWCA water system are advised to boil the water for five minutes before drinking, cooking, and dishwashing. 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 immune-compromised individuals are at an increased risk for illness.

The NMED Drinking Water Bureau will provide technical assistance to the water system and the La Bajada 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 Andy Edmondson, Technical Services Manager, at (505) 670-2352.

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