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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Environment Department Issues Boil Water Advisory for
Enchanted Forest Water Corporation, Bonita Park Nazarene Conference Center, and Villa Madonna**
Precautionary Boil Water Remains in Effect for All Other Burn Areas

(Santa Fe, N.M.) – New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau Field Staff have been dispatched into neighborhoods inside the Little Bear Wildfire Burn Area that have been reopened to evacuees. Preliminary assessments show that numerous drinking water systems within the burn area have been damaged and may be compromised. With these new assessments, the NMED has issued a mandatory boil water advisory for:

- Enchanted Forest Water Corporation
- Bonita Park Nazarene Conference Center
- Villa Madonna

The water system consumers of Enchanted Forest Water Corporation, Bonita Park Nazarene Conference Center and Villa Madonna are advised to seek an alternate source of drinking water, such as bottled water, or boil the water for five minutes before drinking, cooking, and dishwashing.

The NMED is also renewing and reminding all evacuees returning to homes/cabins within other burn areas that a precautionary boil water advisory remains in effect.

“The boil water advisory remains precautionary in the rest of the burned areas until we can confirm water sample results,” says NMED Deputy Secretary Butch Tongate. “In many locations, we still cannot access drinking water systems in the burn area. Therefore, we strongly recommend all returning evacuees boil their water or use bottled water until we can make an official determination.”

NMED staff continues to collect water samples in the burn area to ensure drinking water systems are providing uncontaminated drinking water. Additional mandatory boil water advisories will be issued as warranted pending final sample results.

The NMED is also asking all evacuees to conserve drinking water when returning to areas which have been impacted by the Little Bear Fire. The fire may have damaged electrical wires or other water facilities which are critical to producing drinking water. If unable to produce drinking water, the systems must rely on existing storage until critical water facilities are repaired. Water conservation allows the systems additional time to make the needed repairs and avoid complete water outages.

For more information, call NMED Communications Director Jim Winchester at (505) 231-8800 or Joe Savage, District Manager, at (575) 973-0009.

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