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June 19, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Environment Department Issues Mandatory “Boil Water Advisory”  
for Pine Springs Summer Camp in Otero 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 mandatory “boil water advisory” for the Pine Springs Summer Camp water system.

NMED issued the advisory on June 19, 2012 after bacteriological contamination (*E. coli*) was detected and confirmed in drinking water samples from the system. NMED requires the Pine Springs Summer Camp water system to notify water consumers of their water system of this finding. Pine Springs Summer Camp serves an approximate population of 120 in Sacramento, New Mexico. This advisory only applies to the drinking water from the Pine Springs Summer Camp water system, and does not extend to any other surrounding water systems.

Consumers of the Pine Springs Summer Camp water system are advised to boil 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 immuno-compromised individuals are at an increased risk for illness.

The NMED Drinking Water Bureau will provide technical assistance to the system and the Pine Springs Summer Camp water system will continue to test the water until no further threat of contamination remains.

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

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