



**NEWS RELEASE**

**November 22, 2011**

SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR

David Martin, *Cabinet Secretary*

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**Environment Department Lifts “Boil Water Advisory” for  
Seboyeta Water System in Mora County**

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau is lifting the “boil water advisory” for the Seboyeta Water System located in Cibola, New Mexico in Mora County.

NMED issued the advisory on November 19, 2012 after bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for *E. coli* was discovered in drinking water at the water system. **The advisory only applied to customers served by the Seboyeta Water System and did not extend to any of the other surrounding water systems or communities.**

Consumers of water at the Seboyeta Water System were 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 had indicated the presence of dangerous strains of *E. coli* or other disease-causing organisms. These types of organisms could 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 provided technical assistance to the water system and determined that adequate disinfection (chlorination) was provided at a level that mitigates the potential threat to public health. The Seboyeta will maintain a regular monitoring schedule to ensure adequate levels of disinfection, as well as continue to test the distribution system for the presence of *E. coli*.

For more information, call NMED Communications Director Jim Winchester at (505) 231-8800 or (505) 231-0475 or Nora Romero, New Mexico Environment Department, Drinking Water Bureau, Albuquerque Area Supervisor, at (505) 222-3531.

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