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NEWS RELEASE

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Environment Department Issues “Boil Water Advisory” for San Cristobal MDWCA Water System

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 San Cristobal MDWCA Water System.

NMED issued the advisory on November 17, 2012 after bacteriological contamination (*E. coli*) was detected and confirmed in drinking water samples from the system. NMED requires the San Cristobal MDWCA Water System to notify water consumers of their water system of this finding. San Cristobal MDWCA Water System serves approximately 139 residents located approximately 10 miles south of Questa, NM in Taos County.

This advisory only applies to the drinking water from the San Cristobal MDWCA Water System, and does not extend to any other surrounding water systems.

Consumers of the San Cristobal MDWCA 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 immuno-compromised individuals are at an increased risk for illness.

The NMED Drinking Water Bureau will provide technical assistance to the water system and San Cristobal MDWCA 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) 827-0314 or Joe Martinez, Drinking Water Bureau Area Supervisor, at (505) 476-8635.

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