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NEWS RELEASE

September 16, 2013

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Environment Department Issues “Boil Water Advisory” for San Cristobal Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (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 Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) Water System.

NMED issued the advisory on September 16, 2013 after bacteriological contamination (*E. coli*) was detected in a routine monitoring sample on September 11, 2013. Total coliform and *E.coli* were also detected in four samples collected from the system on September 13, 2013. NMED requires the San Cristobal MDWCA Water System to notify water system consumers of this finding. San Cristobal MDWCA Water System serves approximately 140 residents and is located approximately 18 miles north of Taos, NM, in Taos County. **At this time, it is NOT believed this detection is related to recent heavy rains and flooding around the state.**

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) 831-8800 or Jan Dye, Compliance Officer, at (575) 445-3621.