



**SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**September 26, 2013**

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### **Environment Department Issues “Boil Water Advisory” for Canada de Los Alamos Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) *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 Canada de Los Alamos Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) located approximately 5 miles west of Glorieta, NM, in Santa Fe County.

NMED issued the advisory on September 26, 2013, after bacteriological contamination (*E. coli*) was detected and confirmed in drinking water samples from distribution within the system and from one well that supplied water to the system. NMED requires the Canada de Los Alamos MDWCA to notify water consumers of their water system of this finding. Canada de Los Alamos MDWCA serves approximately 70 residents approximately 5 miles west of Glorieta, NM, in Santa Fe County.

This advisory only applies to the drinking water from the Canada de Los Alamos MDWCA, and does not extend to any other surrounding water systems.

Consumers of the Canada de Los Alamos MDWCA 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 the Canada de Los Alamos MDWCA has increased chlorination in the water system to kill any bacteria present and the Gallery Well has been disconnected from the system. The Canada de Los Alamos MDWCA 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 Rosalie Robinson, Drinking Water Bureau Compliance Officer, at (575) 762-3728.