

**SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR**Ryan Flynn, *Cabinet Secretary-Designate*Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****October 2, 2013****Contact:** Jim Winchester

Communications Director

New Mexico Environment Department

(505)231-8800 / jim.winchester@state.nm.us**Environment Department Lifts “Boil Water Advisory” for
Agua Pura Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA)
in Mora County**

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau is lifting the “Boil Water Advisory” for the Agua Pura Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) located in Chacon, New Mexico in Mora County.

NMED issued the advisory on August 30, 2013 after a disruption in water service as well as bacteriological contamination (*E. coli*) and total coliform being detected in routine monitoring samples collected on August 28, 2013. **The advisory only applied to customers served by the Agua Pura MDWCA and did not extend to any of the other surrounding water systems or communities.**

Consumers of water at the Agua Pura MDWCA 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 immunocompromised 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. Recent microbiological samples collected at that water system also indicate that the water was free of coliform and *E. coli* bacteria. The Agua Pura MDWCA 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 Joe Martinez, Drinking Water Bureau Northern Area Compliance Supervisor, at (505) 476-8635.