

**SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR**Ryan Flynn, *Cabinet Secretary-Designate*Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****September 20, 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
San Cristobal Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA)
Water System in Taos County**

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau is lifting the “boil water advisory” for the San Cristobal Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) Water System in Taos County.

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.

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

Consumers of the San Cristobal MDWCA 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 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 provided technical assistance to the water system and determined that adequate disinfection (chlorination) was provided at levels that mitigates the potential threat to public health. The San Cristobal MDWCA water system will maintain a regular monitoring schedule and continue to test the distribution system for the presence of *E. coli*.

For more information, call NMED Communications Director Jim Winchester at (505) 831-8800 or Janice Dye, Drinking Water Bureau Compliance Officer, at (575) 445-3621.

###