



**BILL RICHARDSON**  
GOVERNOR

*State of New Mexico*  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
*Office of the Secretary*  
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501-6110  
Telephone (505) 827-2855  
Fax (505) 827-2836



**RON CURRY**  
SECRETARY



**DERRITH WATCHMAN MOORE**  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

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Immediate Release

Contact: Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director  
Phone: (505) 827-0314

### **Environment Department and Santa Fe County Work Together to Provide Free Domestic Water Well Testing in Agua Fria**

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department and Santa Fe County will test private domestic water wells in the Agua Fria area of Santa Fe on Friday and Saturday, March 17 and 18. The free water testing is part of a statewide groundwater quality assessment. Tests will include analyses for nitrate, dissolved oxygen and electrical conductivity.

The testing area is bounded on the north by Highway 599, on the east by Henry Lynch Road, on the south by Rufina Street, and on the west by Lopez Lane. The testing is free, and participation is voluntary. Water quality experts will provide residents with test results and be available to answer any questions.

Residents wishing to have their water tested should contact Jessica Tapia, [jessica.tapia@state.nm.us](mailto:jessica.tapia@state.nm.us), at (505) 476-8602, or by calling 1-800-219-6157. Residents not at home on the days of the testing may authorize technicians to collect a water sample from an outside faucet and to determine the coordinates of wellheads with a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit.

Water supplied by public drinking water systems will not be tested, as those supplies are routinely analyzed pursuant to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. If you are supplied by a public system, you should receive a Consumer Confidence Report each year from the system operator that summarizes test results. For additional information on public drinking water systems visit [www.safewater.state.nm.us](http://www.safewater.state.nm.us) to review NMED's online database of public drinking water systems.

Previous testing by NMED has detected nitrate contamination in some wells in the Agua Fria area. Nitrate contamination can be caused by septic tank effluents, fertilizers, animal waste, and by natural geologic sources. For more information about nitrate contamination, see the NMED Web site, <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/gwb/Technical%20resources/haniteng.html>.

For additional information, contact Dennis McQuillan, NMED Field Operations manager, at (505) 476-8607, or Robert Griego, Santa Fe County senior planner, at (505) 986-6215. For media inquiries, contact Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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