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**For Immediate Release**

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**State Environment Officials Lift “BOIL WATER ORDER” for Cebolla Water System**

(Santa Fe, NM) – Friday the New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau (NMED-DWB) advised the Cebolla Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) to lift a Boil Water Order for the customers served by the MDWCA water system.

The Cebolla water system, located approximately 25 miles south of Chama, was put on a Boil Water Order on December 13, 2001 due to bacteriological contamination that resulted in an exceedence of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for total coliform and *E. Coli* bacteria.

Results of samples taken on December 17<sup>th</sup> and December 20<sup>th</sup> showed no total coliforms or *E. coli* bacteria. Furthermore, with the assistance of NMED-DWB the system has demonstrated the ability to maintain an adequate level of disinfection. These efforts will lead to better water quality for the water system and the community it serves.

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Cebolla MDWCA

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Most strains of *E. coli* are harmless and live in the intestines of healthy humans and animals. However, 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. Customers of the Cebolla water system were advised to boil water for five minutes before drinking, cooking and dishwashing.

For more information regarding the status of the water system, contact Robert Gallegos, Hydrologist, NMED, at 1-877-654-8720 ext. 1034 or Darren Padilla, Hydrologist, NMED, at 1-877-654-8720 ext. 1044.

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