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**RON CURRY**  
SECRETARY

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Immediate Release

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## **Environment Department Assists Otero County with Emergency Response for Boles Acres Water System**

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) continues to work with Otero County to address a drinking water emergency for the Boles Acres Water System, which serves about 900 consumers, following a flash flood event that impacted one of the system's water supply wells.

With the assistance of NMED, Otero County has declared a state of emergency that has allowed delivery of water tankers from the National Guard. Boles Acres is a community about six miles south of Alamogordo. NMED ordered Boles Acres Water System to issue a drinking water advisory on June 5 after the flooding submerged one of its wells and caused breaks in the distribution system.

Subsequent testing indicates bacterial contamination, including E. coli, is present in the drinking water system. Pending tests will determine whether chemical contaminants are present in the system. Until all test results are complete NMED will continue enforcing the drinking water advisory for the Boles Acres Water System and recommending consumers seek an alternative drinking water source.

NMED is requiring the system to complete any mechanical repairs, disinfect and flush out the water system. In addition, NMED's Drinking Water Bureau will continue to test the water until the system is fully functional and no further threat of contamination remains.

The National Guard is providing drinking water via tankers at various locations in the community. The New Mexico Department of Health (DOH) has been notified and will remain on alert for any health effects linked to this water quality issue. Consumers of the water system may call DOH at (505) 827-0006, if they have any water-related health concerns. Consumers may also call the Otero County Emergency Services Coordinator's Office at (505) 437-7427, or NMED Drinking Water Bureau (505) 476-8620.

For more information, contact Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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