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April 14, 2006  
Immediate Release

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### **Environment Department to Provide Free Domestic Water Well Testing in Eldorado**

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is offering free water testing of private domestic wells in the Eldorado community near Santa Fe on Saturday, April 22, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Eldorado Elementary School gymnasium. People wishing to have their water tested should bring one-liter (quart) of water in a clean plastic bottle, collected from the cold-water tap on the day of testing.

The water testing is part of a statewide groundwater quality assessment. Tests will include analyses for nitrate, fluoride, and electrical conductivity. The testing is free, and participation is voluntary. Water quality experts will provide residents with test results and will be available to answer any questions.

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 moderate, but not dangerous, nitrate and fluoride concentrations in some wells in the Eldorado area. Nitrate can originate from septic tank effluent, fertilizers, animal waste, and from natural geologic sources. Fluoride is a natural mineral that occurs widely in New Mexico ground water.

For additional information, contact Dennis McQuillan, NMED Field Operations manager, at (505) 476-8607. For media inquiries, contact Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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