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ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



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Village of Mosquero Under “BOIL WATER ADVISORY”

(Santa Fe, NM) – On Friday, the New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau (NMED-DWB) and New Mexico Department of Health’s Office of Epidemiology, advised the Village of Mosquero to issue a boil water advisory to citizens served by the Village water system.

The Village was put on a boil water advisory on March 2, 2001 due to bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for *E. coli*. Customers of the Mosquero water system were asked to boil water for five minutes before drinking, cooking, and dishwashing.

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. A positive test for *E. coli* in the drinking water supply only occasionally indicates the presence of a dangerous strain of *E. coli* (such as *E. coli* O157:H7, which has been publicized recently in connection with illnesses caused by contaminated food and water).

Lab results received on Friday confirmed earlier tests, which indicated the presence of *E. coli* bacteria at various points in the water system.

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The DWB and its contractor, the New Mexico Rural Water Association, will continue to monitor the Mosquero water system and provide technical assistance, including additional well testing. The assistance is designed to help identify and eliminate possible sources of contamination to the Mosquero water system.

The Department of Health will remain on alert for any health effects linked to this water quality issue. Residents may call the New Mexico Department of Health Physician Hotline at (505) 827-0006 if they have any water-related health concerns.

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