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**State Environment Department issues Drinking-Water
NITRATE VIOLATION to the Village of Gabaldon**

(Santa Fe, NM) –Today, the New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau (NMED-DWB) issued a violation to the Gabaldon Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) and advised the citizens served by the water system not to use the water for consumption by infants under 6 months old.

The Gabaldon MDWCA violation was caused by exceedance of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for nitrate. Results from two water tests conducted last week indicated levels of 25.3 mg/L and 30.37 mg/L nitrate in the Gabaldon water system. The MCL for nitrate in drinking water is 10 mg/ L as established by federal and state drinking water regulations. The Gabaldon MDWCA is located in San Miguel County approximately 10-15 miles southwest of Las Vegas, NM.

Nitrate in drinking water is a serious health concern for infants less than six months old. Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if not treated, could die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and a blue or gray coloring of the skin (often referred to as “blue baby syndrome”). Symptoms in infants can develop rapidly, with health deteriorating over a period of days. Although infants under 6 months are at greatest risk, pregnant and nursing women and children under 8 years of age should limit their intake of the water until nitrate levels decrease. If symptoms occur, seek medical attention immediately. The New Mexico Department of Health will remain on alert for water-related health problems; and the 24-hour Physician Hotline at (505) 827-0006 can also address concerns.

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Consumers of the Gabaldon MDWCA should **NOT** boil the water as excessive boiling concentrates the nitrates in the water. Water, juice, and formula for children under six months of age should not be prepared with tap water. Bottled water or other water from an approved water source should be used for infants until further notice.

The DWB will continue to monitor Gabaldon MDWCA's water system and provide technical assistance. Such assistance will help identify and eliminate possible sources of contamination, identify alternative water sources, and recommend treatment options for the water system.

For more information, contact [Jennifer Wellman](#), Environmental Specialist, NMED, at (505) 827-7536 or toll free: (877) 654-8720 x.1012.

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