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For Immediate Release

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Environment Department Lifts Boil Water Order for Village of Bluewater Water & Sanitation District in Cibola County

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau recently lifted a boil water order for the Village of Bluewater Water & Sanitation District in Cibola County after managers of the water system disinfected the water.

NMED lifted the order for the system, which is located in the Village of Bluewater about 12 miles northwest of Grants, Sept. 15 after water samples from the system showed no presence of bacteria. NMED placed the system on a boil water advisory Sept. 7 after water from the system showed bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for E. Coli.

The presence of E. coli in water indicates 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.

However, a positive test for E. coli in the drinking water supply may indicate the presence of dangerous strains of E. coli or other disease-causing organisms, which are sometimes found in sewage or animal wastes. These types of organisms may cause severe gastrointestinal illness and, in rare cases, even death. Children, the elderly and immuno-compromised individuals are at an increased risk for illness.

For more information, call NMED Communications Director Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314 or NMED Hydrologist Valerio Lopez at (505) 841-9029.

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