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For Immediate Release

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### **NMED Issues Boil Water Alert for Elida Water System in Roosevelt County**

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau advised the Elida Water System in Roosevelt County to issue a boil water order for its water system.

NMED issued the advisory on Jan. 6 after bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for *E. coli* was discovered in drinking water from the town. NMED requires the town, the location of the water system in Roosevelt County about 30 miles south of Portales, to notify its consumers of the finding.

Customers of the water system are advised 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. 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 immunocompromised individuals are at an increased risk for illness.

Actions have been initiated to disinfect the water system and identify possible sources of contamination. The Drinking Water Bureau will continue to assist the district with to help identify the source of the problem.

For more information contact Marissa Stone, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475 or NMED Hydrologist Don Clark at (505) 762-3728.

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