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For Immediate Release

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Environment Department lifts Boil Water Order for Anton Chico Water System in San Miguel County

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau advised managers of the Anton Chico water system in San Miguel County this week to lift a Boil Water Order for its system.

NMED placed the Anton Chico Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association, which is in Anton Chico about 28 miles south of Las Vegas, on a Boil Water Order on Aug. 18 after water samples from the system showed bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for E. coli.

Recent water samples showed no bacteria in the water. Managers of the system disinfected the system by adding chlorine to the water.

The presence of E. Coli in water indicates it 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 (505) 231-0475 or NMED Hydrologist Valerio Lopez at (505) 222-9538.

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