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**State Environment and Health Officials Lift
"BOIL WATER ADVISORY" in Polvadera**

(Santa Fe, NM) – On Friday the New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau (NMED-DWB) and New Mexico Department of Health’s (DOH) Office of Epidemiology, advised the Polvadera Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWC) to rescind a boil water advisory for the customers served by their water system.

The Polvadera MDWCA was put on a Precautionary Boil Water Advisory on Friday, July 20, 2001, and an Official Boil Water Advisory on Monday July 23, 2001, due to bacteriological contamination that resulted in an exceedence of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for *E. coli* bacteria.

Most strains of *E. coli* are harmless and live in the intestines of healthy humans and animals. However, 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. Customers of the Polvadera MDWCA were asked to boil water for five minutes before drinking, cooking, and dishwashing.

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Results received late Friday afternoon for two samples collected on Monday, July 30, and two samples collected on Tuesday July 31, **showed no total coliforms or *E. coli* bacteria.** Under the supervision of NMED/DWB and the New Mexico Rural Water Association the system has been chlorinated. **These efforts will lead to better water quality for the water system and the community it serves.** As a result, the DWB, in collaboration with the DOH Office of Epidemiology, determined that it was safe to lift the boil water advisory. The DWB will continue to monitor the Polvadera MDWCA water system.

For more information regarding this water system, contact Jerry Lewis, Hydrologist, NMED, at (505) 841-9452 or Julie Desai, Water Resource Specialist, NMED, at (505) 827-1400 x. 1014

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