



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Drinking Water Bureau
525 Camino De Los Marquez, Ste. 4
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-1816
Telephone (505) 827-7536
Fax (505) 827-7545



RON CURRY
SECRETARY

DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE
DEPUTY SECRETARY

For Immediate Release
February 13, 2005

Contact: Mike Huber, District Manager, NMED
Phone: (505) 476-8638
Contact: Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Dir.
Phone: (505) 827-0314

Environment Department Issues Drinking-Water Advisory for Nitrate Levels at SKP RV Park

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau has issued an advisory for a nitrate drinking water violation at the SKP RV Park, located in Lakewood, approximately 25 miles north of Carlsbad. The Department advised the RV park management to prohibit the consumption of all untreated water, especially by infants under six months old, pregnant women or those having specific health concerns.

The violation is due to an exceedance of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for nitrate in drinking water. The MCL for nitrate in drinking water is 10 milligrams/liter (mg/L) as established by federal and state drinking water regulations. Results from two water tests completed at the water system over the last two weeks indicated nitrate levels of 41.9 mg/L and 27.7 mg/L respectively.

Elevated levels of nitrate in drinking water pose a serious health concern for infants. Children younger than 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 six 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.

Consumers of water at the SKP RV Park should **NOT** boil the water, as boiling concentrates the nitrates. Water, juice, and formula for children under six months of age should not be prepared with tap water from this system. Bottled water or other water from an approved water source will be provided until further notice.

NMED Drinking Water Bureau staff will continue to monitor the SKP RV Park water system on a regular basis and provide technical assistance. Such assistance will help identify and eliminate possible sources of contamination, identify alternative water sources available, and recommend treatment options for the water system.

For additional information, contact Mike Huber, District Manager, NMED, at (505) 476-8638, or Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

###