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**For Immediate Release**  
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**State Environment and Health Officials**  
**Lift "BOIL WATER ADVISORY" for Thoreau High School Water System**

**(Santa Fe, NM) – On Monday, August 27, the New Mexico Environment Department's Drinking Water Bureau (NMED-DWB) and the New Mexico Department of Health's (DOH) Office of Epidemiology, advised Thoreau High School water system officials to rescind a boil water advisory for the customers served by their water system.**

**Results** received Wednesday afternoon for six samples collected on Monday, August 20, six samples collected on Wednesday, August 22, and three samples collected on Friday, August 24, **showed no total coliforms or *E. coli* bacteria.** The system operator installed a chlorinator on Thursday, August 16, 2001, and adequate disinfection has been maintained. 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 Thoreau High School water system.

The Thoreau High School water system was put on a Boil Water Advisory on Sunday, August 12, 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 Thoreau High School water system were asked to boil water for five minutes before drinking, cooking, and dishwashing.**

For more information regarding this water system, contact Diane M. Barnes, Water Resource Specialist at NMED, at (505) 327-9851 or Larry Linford, GMCS Grants and PR Coordinator at (505) 722-7711, ext. 51030.

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Note: Please make certain that bolded items in this press release are mentioned in media coverage.