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For Immediate Release

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Environment Department Offers Free Well Water Testing to Northwestern New Mexico Residents

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) will begin offering free well water testing to residents throughout northwestern New Mexico on July 20, 2005.

These free tests will analyze for fluoride, iron, and nitrate. Tests for pH, electrical conductivity (a measure of total minerals) and organic vapor also may be provided depending on instrument availability.

“Free well water testing is just one of the ways we are trying to better serve rural New Mexico,” said NMED Secretary Ron Curry. “Through this effort, rural residents on private wells will get vital information about the quality of their drinking water; information they can use to protect their family’s health.”

This free testing is being offered at the NMED Field Offices in Farmington, Grants, and Gallup. The free testing offer is limited to samples from private domestic wells. Samples from public drinking-water systems will not be tested. These public water supplies are routinely tested, as required by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, and those test results may be obtained by contacting the NMED Drinking Water Bureau, 505-827-1400, or <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/dwb/dwbtop.html>.

In order to be tested, samples must be at least ½ gallon in volume, freshly drawn from a cold water tap, and brought in a covered, clean glass or plastic container that did not previously contain milk, pickles, juice, or other substances with strong odor. If possible, samples should be collected before passing through any water treatment system, such as a water softener, reverse osmosis, or an activated carbon filter.

For further information contact Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director at (505) 827-0314.

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