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Immediate Release

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Environment Department Orders "BOIL WATER ADVISORY"
for Westwinds Mobile Home Park

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) has ordered Westwinds Mobile Home Park near Carlsbad to issue a boil water advisory for its consumers.

Westwinds Mobile Home Park serves approximately 165 customers in Eddy County. The mobile home park's water system was put on a "boil water order" today, April 20, 2006, due to bacteriological contamination that exceeded The Maximum Contamination Level (MCL) for *E. Coli.* NMED has required that the system owner and operator notify all customers served by the system of this finding.

Consumers of the water at Westwinds Mobile Home Park are advised to boil water for five minutes before drinking, cooking, and dishwashing.

The presence of *E. coli* in water indicates that the water may have been in contact with sewage and/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.

Actions have been and will further be initiated to identify the possible source(s) of contamination, complete any mechanical repairs if applicable, establish acceptable disinfection, and flush out the water system. In addition, the Drinking Water Bureau will continue to assist with trouble-shooting to identify the source of the problem along with the assistance of their contractor, New Mexico Rural Water Association. The New Mexico Department of Health has also been notified and will remain on alert for any health effects linked to this water quality issue. Consumers of the water system may call (505) 827-0006, if they have any water-related health concerns.

For more information, contact Mike Huber, DWB-DII & IV Manager, at (505) 476-8638, or Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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