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For Immediate Release

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**NMED Issues “BOIL WATER ORDER” for Intrepid Potash North and West Water Systems**

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau has ordered Intrepid Potash North and West water systems to issue a boil water advisory for its consumers.

Intrepid Potash North serves approximately 40 customers in Lea County. The Intrepid Potash North water system was put on a “Boil Water Advisory” today, August 24, 2007, 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. A precautionary “Boil Water Advisory” is being issued for the Intrepid Potash West water system that serves approximately 150 customers in Eddy County. This precautionary “Boil Water Advisory” is issued due interconnected water lines between the two water systems.

Consumers of the water at Intrepid Potash North 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.

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