



Bill Richardson
Governor

**NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

Office of the Secretary

Harold Runnels Building
1190 Saint Francis Drive (87505)
PO Box 26110, Santa Fe, NM 87502
Phone (505) 827-2855 Fax (505) 827-2836
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



Ron Curry
Secretary
Jon Goldstein
Deputy Secretary

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Marissa Stone, NMED Communications Director
(505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475

Environment Department to Conduct Free Well Water Testing Next Week for Alcalde and Surrounding Area Residents

WHAT: The New Mexico Environment Department will test private domestic water wells for Alcalde and the surrounding area. Tests will include analyses for nitrate, iron, fluoride, dissolved oxygen, electrical conductivity, pH and sulfate. The testing is free. Water quality experts will provide residents with test results and to answer questions.

WHERE: Oñate Monument Resource and Visitors Center on N.M. 68, Building 854

WHEN: Testing will occur from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 27 and at the same time Tuesday Oct. 28.

WHO: Those who want to have their water tested should contact Marsha Gallegos, marsha.gallegos@state.nm.us, at (505) 753-7256. Residents who will not be home on the days of the testing may authorize the collection of a water sample from an outside faucet and the determination of wellhead coordinates with a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit. Water supplied by public drinking water systems will not be tested because those supplies are routinely analyzed pursuant to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. If your water supply comes from a public system, you should receive a Consumer Confidence Report each year from the system operator that summarizes test results.

For additional information on public drinking water systems, visit www.safewater.state.nm.us to review NMED's online database of public drinking water systems.

For additional information, contact Melanie Sanchez, NMED, Geoscientist, at (505) 222-9574 or Dennis McQuillan, NMED, Environmental Health Manager, at (505) 476-8607. For media inquiries, contact Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314.

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