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## **NMED Issues Boil Water Alert for North Park Mobile Home Park in Eddy County**

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau advised the North Park Mobile Home Park in Eddy County to issue a boil water order for its water system.

NMED issued the advisory today after bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for *E. coli* was discovered in drinking water from the system. The department requires North Park, a water system located in Eddy County about 2 miles north of Artesia, to notify its consumers of the finding. The City of Artesia is not affected.

Customers of the water system 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 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 initiated to disinfect the water system and identify possible sources of contamination. The Drinking Water Bureau will continue to assist the water system with to help identify the source of the problem.

For more information, call Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314, NMED Hydrologist Ben Arguijo at (575) 973-0731 or Area Manager Joe Savage at (575) 973-0009.

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