



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

August 28, 2009
For Immediate Release

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

NMED Issues “Boil Water Alert” for Consumers Served by North Cleveland Water System in Mora County

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau advised the North Cleveland Mutual Domestic Water Consumer’s Association users to issue a “boil water alert” for its water system.

NMED issued the advisory on August 28th after bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for *E. coli* was discovered in drinking water from the water system. NMED requires North Cleveland Water System in Mora County to notify its consumers of the finding.

All consumers of the North Cleveland Water System are advised to boil water for five minutes before drinking, cooking, brushing teeth, and dishwashing or to use bottled water.

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 immunocompromised 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 and help identify the source of the problem.

For more information, call NMED Communications Director Marissa Stone Bardino at (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475 or Mike Huber, Compliance Manager, at (505) 476-8638.

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