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NMED Issues “Boil Water Alert” for Hyde Park Estates Water Users Association in Santa Fe County

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau advised the Hyde Park Estates Water Users Association in Santa Fe County to issue a “boil water order” for its water system.

NMED issued the advisory on November 10, 2008 after bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for E. coli was discovered in drinking water from the water system. NMED requires the Hyde Park Estates Water Users Association, a water system located in Santa Fe County about 5 miles north of Santa Fe, to notify its consumers of the finding. This advisory only applies to the customers of the Hyde Park Estates Water Users Association, and does not extend to any of the other surrounding water systems.

Customers of the water system are advised to boil the 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, establish acceptable disinfection, and flush out the water system. The Drinking Water Bureau will continue to provide assistance to the water system and will test the water until no further threat of contamination remains.

For more information, call Maria Medina with the department’s Drinking Water Bureau at (505) 476-8629.

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