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Environment Department Advises Precautionary “Boil Water Order” for the La Cueva Lodge in Sandoval County

(Jemez Springs, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau advised the La Cueva Lodge to issue a “Boil Water Order” for its water system in Jemez Springs.

The La Cueva Lodge, located in Sandoval County near the intersection of N.M. 4 and N.M. 126, serves a population of approximately 25. The La Cueva Lodge was put on a “Boil Water Advisory” today due to bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for E. coli. NMED requires that the system owner and operator notify all the consumers served by the system of this finding.

Consumers of the La Cueva Lodge 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. Those organisms may cause severe gastrointestinal illness and, in rare cases, 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 the possible sources of contamination, and increase field monitoring. In addition, the Drinking Water Bureau will continue to assist with trouble-shooting to identify the source of the problem.

The New Mexico Department of Health has also been notified and will remain on alert for any health effects linked to this water quality issue. Consumers of the water system should call (505) 841-5894, if they have water-related health concerns.

For more information contact Damian Luna, Oversight, NMED-DWB, at (505) 222-9579 or Marissa Stone, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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