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Environment Department Issues Boil Water Order for Rolling Hills HUA System in Otero County

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department's Drinking Water Bureau today ordered Rolling Hills WUA water system to issue a boil water advisory for its consumers.

Rolling Hills WUA serves approximately 35 customers in Otero County. The Rolling Hills WUA water system was put on a "Boil Water Advisory" due to bacteriological contamination that exceeded The Maximum Contamination Level (MCL) for E. Coli. NMED has required that the system owner and operator notify all customers served by the system of this finding.

Consumers of water at Rolling Hills WUA 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 and/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 and will further be initiated to identify the possible source(s) of contamination, complete any mechanical repairs if applicable, establish acceptable disinfection, and flush out the water system. In addition, the Drinking Water Bureau will continue to assist with trouble-shooting to identify the source of the problem along with the assistance of their contractor.

For more information contact Marissa Stone, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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