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State Environment Department Issues Boil Water Advisory for Village of Ruidoso Water System

(Santa Fe, N.M.) -- The New Mexico Environment Department's Drinking Water Bureau has advised the Village of Ruidoso Water System to issue a boil water advisory for its consumers.

The Village of Ruidoso Water System serves approximately 10,000 customers in Lincoln County. The water system was put on a precautionary "boil water advisory" today due to flooding in the area that has damaged the water system.

"The Environment Department will help the Village in any way possible," said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. "A dozen members of the department are in the flood areas and will offer free water testing for area residents, assist with the Food Program and monitor the wastewater treatment plant."

NMED and the Village of Ruidoso are notifying all customers served by the system of this advisory. Consumers of the water in the Village of Ruidoso are advised to boil tap water for five minutes before drinking, cooking, and dishwashing. Water main breaks have the potential to allow bacterial contaminants to enter the water system. Microbiological contaminants in the water may cause disease. Disease symptoms may include diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches and fatigue. These symptoms, however, are not just associated with disease causing organisms in drinking water. People at increased risk (infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems) should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers or use bottled water.

Actions have been and will further be initiated to identify any possible source(s) of contamination, complete any mechanical repairs if applicable, establish acceptable disinfection, and flush out the water system. In addition, the NMED Drinking Water Bureau will coordinate with the water system to test the water throughout the system for bacterial contamination.

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 may call (505) 827-0006, if they have any water-related health concerns.

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

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