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For Immediate Release**

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## **Environment Department, Pueblo de San Ildefonso and Los Alamos National Laboratory To Conduct Free Well Testing on the Pueblo**

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department, Pueblo de San Ildefonso and Los Alamos National Laboratory will test private domestic water wells on the pueblo on Sept. 23 and 24.

The collaborative water testing effort will help inform local residents of the quality of their water and assist the three organizations in their assessment of groundwater quality in the region. The testing area includes all of the Pueblo de San Ildefonso.

“We look for opportunities to work with pueblos and other agencies in efforts that help us protect our constituents,” said New Mexico Environment Department Deputy Secretary Jon Goldstein. “Water quality – as well as water quantity – is of utmost concern in an arid state like ours. We look forward to providing tribal members with detailed information about the quality of their drinking water.”

Tests will include analyses for nitrate, iron, fluoride, uranium, arsenic, dissolved oxygen, electrical conductivity, pH, surfactants and coliform bacteria.

The testing is free, and participation is voluntary. Water quality experts will provide residents with test results and be available to answer any questions.

Residents of the pueblo interested in having their water tested should contact Jessica Tapia at [jessica.tapia@state.nm.us](mailto:jessica.tapia@state.nm.us) or (505) 476-8602. Residents who will not be home on the days of testing may authorize the collection of a water sample from an outside faucet and the determination of wellhead coordinates with a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit.

Water supplied by public drinking water systems will not be tested as those supplies are routinely analyzed pursuant to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. If you are supplied by a public system, you should receive a Consumer Confidence Report each year from the system operator that summarizes test results. For additional information on public drinking water systems visit [www.safewater.state.nm.us](http://www.safewater.state.nm.us) to review NMED’s online database of public drinking water systems.

Previous testing by the three collaborating organizations has detected elevated levels of nitrate, iron, fluoride, uranium and arsenic in some wells in the region. The nitrate and iron most likely result from septic tank effluents. The fluoride, uranium and arsenic originate from naturally occurring geologic minerals that dissolve into the aquifer.

For additional information, contact Dennis McQuillan, NMED, Environmental Health Manager, at (505) 476-8607, Ken Wilhelm, Pueblo de San Ildefonso, Water Quality Specialist, at (505) 455-4126, or Patrick Longmire, LANL, Geochemist, at (505) 665-1264. For media inquiries, contact Marissa Stone, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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