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**State Environment Department Issues Boil Water Advisories for Water Systems
Impacted by Flooding in Lincoln County**

(Santa Fe, N.M.) -- The New Mexico Environment Department's Drinking Water Bureau has advised the following public water systems to issue a boil water advisory for their consumers:

Village of Ruidoso
Cedar Creek Water Users Association
Smokey Bear Ranger Station / Cedar Creek Campground
Bonito Hollow RV Park
Seeping Springs RV Park
River Ranch RV Park
South Fork Campground
Ruidoso Downs Racetrack
Ruidoso Downs Racing Complex
Sun Country Food Mart & Conoco (Hondo, NM)

These water systems were put on a precautionary "boil water advisory" today due to flooding in the area that has the potential to impact water quality.

"About a dozen members of the Environment Department have been stationed in Ruidoso since the flooding began to assist community members and governmental agencies," said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. "We are assessing water conditions, monitoring the wastewater treatment plant, helping restaurant owners through our Food Program and will soon offer free water testing. We will inform residents once these boil water advisories are lifted."

NMED and the water systems are notifying all customers served by the systems of this advisory. Consumers of the water served by these water systems are advised to boil water for five minutes before drinking, cooking, and dishwashing. Flooding has the potential to allow bacterial contaminants to enter a 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 systems. In addition, the NMED Drinking Water Bureau will coordinate with the water systems to test the water throughout the systems 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.