

**SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR**Ryan Flynn, *Cabinet Secretary-Designate*Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****August 28, 2013**

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Environment Department Lifts “Boil Water Advisory” for El Ancon Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association Water System in San Miguel County

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau is lifting the “Boil Water Advisory” for the El Ancon Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) Water System in San Miguel County.

NMED issued the advisory on August 16, 2013 after bacteriological contamination (*E. coli*) was detected in a repeat monitoring sample. Total coliform was also detected in one of the required monthly drinking water samples from the system collected on August 12, 2013. NMED required the El Ancon MDWCA Water System to notify water system consumers of this finding. El Ancon MDWCA Water System serves approximately 120 residents and is located approximately 2 miles north of Ribera, NM near I-25 & State Highway 3 in San Miguel County.

This advisory only applied to the drinking water from the El Ancon MDWCA Water System, and did not extend to any other surrounding water systems.

Consumers of the El Ancon MDWCA Water System were advised to boil the water for five minutes before drinking, cooking, dishwashing and bathing. 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. These types of 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.

The NMED Drinking Water Bureau provided technical assistance to the water system and determined that adequate disinfection (chlorination) was provided at levels that mitigates the potential threat to public health. The El Ancon MDWCA water system will maintain a regular monitoring schedule and continue to test the distribution system for the presence of *E. coli*.

For more information, call NMED Communications Director Jim Winchester at (505) 831-8800 or Maria J. Medina, Drinking Water Bureau Compliance Officer, at (505) 476-8629.