

SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNORRyan Flynn, *Cabinet Secretary-Designate*Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****October 3, 2013**

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**Environment Department Lifts “Boil Water Advisory” for
Canada de Los Alamos Mutual Domestic Water
Consumers Association in Santa Fe County**

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau is lifting the “boil water advisory” for the Canada de Los Alamos Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) located near Glorieta, New Mexico in Santa Fe County.

NMED issued the advisory on September 26, 2013 after bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for *E. coli* was discovered in drinking water at the water system. **The advisory only applied to customers served by the Canada de Los Alamos (MDWCA) and did not extend to any of the other surrounding water systems or communities.**

Consumers of water at the Canada de Los Alamos MDWCA 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 had indicated the presence of dangerous strains of *E. coli* or other disease-causing organisms. These types of organisms could 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 the well that tested positive for *E. coli* was disconnected from the system. Additionally the remaining wells and storage tanks were disinfected (chlorinated) to mitigate the potential threat to public health. Subsequent samples collected from the water system were negative for bacteriological contamination. The Canada de Los Alamos MDWCA will maintain a regular monitoring schedule to test the distribution system for the presence of *E. coli*.

For more information, call NMED Communications Director Jim Winchester at (505) 231-8800 or Rosalie Robinson, Drinking Water Bureau Compliance Officer, at (575) 762-3728.

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