



SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR

Ryan Flynn, *Cabinet Secretary-Designate*

Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary*

NEWS RELEASE

November 12, 2013

Contact: Jim Winchester
Communications Director
New Mexico Environment Department
(505)231-8800 / jim.winchester@state.nm.us

Environment Department Lifts “Boil Water Advisory” for Ramah Water and Sanitation District

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau is lifting the “Boil Water Advisory” for the Ramah Water and Sanitation District water system located in Ramah, New Mexico in McKinley County.

NMED issued the advisory on October 3, 2013 after bacteriological contamination (*E. coli*) was detected in a drinking water sample from the system’s distribution network. NMED required the Ramah Water and Sanitation District Water System to notify water system consumers of this finding. Ramah Water and Sanitation District Water System serves approximately 500 residents located in Ramah, NM in McKinley County.

The advisory only applied to customers served by the Ramah Water and Sanitation District Water System and did not extend to any of the other surrounding water systems or communities.

Consumers of water at the Ramah Water and Sanitation District Water System were advised to boil the water for five minutes before drinking, cooking, dishwashing and bathing. The presence of *E. coli* in water indicated 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 could have 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 determined that subsequent samples collected from the distribution were negative for bacteriological contamination. The Ramah Water and Sanitation District Water System will maintain a regular monitoring schedule to ensure adequate levels of disinfection, as well as continue 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 Glenn DeGuzman, Drinking Water Bureau Compliance Officer, at (505) 222-9538.