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NEWS RELEASE

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“Boil Water Advisory” for St. Johns Mobile Home Park Water System Issued

Customers are urged to Boil Water Prior to Drinking

(Santa Fe, N.M.) – The St. Johns Mobile Home Park Water System issued a “boil water advisory” to their customers on November 14, 2013. The advisory was issued after a disruption in water service due to a line break as well as bacteriological contamination (total & *E. coli* coliform) being detected in a routine monitoring sample collected on November 13, 2013. The St. Johns Mobile Home Park Water System serves approximately 430 residents located north of Las Cruces, NM in Dona Ana County.

This advisory only applies to the drinking water from the St. Johns Mobile Home Park Water System, and does not extend to any other surrounding water systems.

Consumers of the St. Johns Mobile Home Park Water System are 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 will continue to provide technical assistance to the water system and St. Johns Mobile Home Park Water System will continue to test the water until no further threat of contamination remains.

For more information, call NMED Communications Director Jim Winchester at (505) 827-0314 or Ray Melendrez, Drinking Water Bureau Area Supervisor, at (575) 647-7955.

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