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For Immediate Release

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**Environment Department lifts “BOIL WATER ORDER” for  
Placitas West Water Co-op Community Water System**

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau has advised the Placitas West Water Co-Op Community Water System water system located in Sandoval County to lift a “boil water order” for its water system effective October 31, 2008.

The Placitas West Water Co-op Community Water System, located in Sandoval County, approximately 10 miles west of the Town of Bernalillo, was put on “boil water advisory” on October 27, 2008 due to bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for E. Coli.

Actions to disinfect the water system and identify possible sources of contamination were promptly taken. These actions included shock chlorination and flushing of the entire water system. Bottled water was recommended for drinking.

Water samples collected since the shock chlorination and flushing have shown no Coliforms in the water system. These clean results have allowed NMED’s Drinking Water Bureau to advise the Placitas West Water Co-Op Community Water System to lift the “boil water order” for its Water System.

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, which are sometimes found in sewage or animal wastes. These types of organisms may cause severe gastrointestinal illness and, in rare cases, even death. Children, the elderly, and immuno-compromised individuals are at an increased risk for illness.

For more information contact Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314.

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