



Bill Richardson  
Governor

**NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

*Office of the Secretary*

Harold Runnels Building  
1190 Saint Francis Drive (87505)  
PO Box 26110, Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Phone (505) 827-2855 Fax (505) 827-2836  
[www.nmenv.state.nm.us](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us)



Ron Curry  
Secretary  
Jon Goldstein  
Deputy Secretary

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Contact: Marissa Stone Bardino, NMED Communications Director  
(505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475

**NMED Lifts “Boil Water Alert” for Morningstar Water Users’ Association in San Juan County**

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau advised the Morningstar Water Users Association to lift a “boil water order” for its water system.

NMED issued the order after bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for *E. coli* was discovered in drinking water from the water system. NMED required the Morningstar Water Users Association water system in San Juan County to notify its consumers of the finding.

Actions to disinfect the water system and identify possible sources of contamination were promptly taken. These actions included shock chlorination and flushing of the water system. Consumers were advised to boil all water prior to ingestion.

Water samples collected since the shock chlorination and flushing have shown no *E. coli* present in the water system. These clean results have allowed NMED’s Drinking Water Bureau to advise the Morning Star Water Users Association 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, call NMED Communications Director Marissa Stone Bardino at (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475 or Area Manager Pat Akin at (505) 222-9532.

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