



BILL RICHARDSON  
Governor  
DIANE DENISH  
Lieutenant Governor

NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

*Office of the Secretary*

Harold Runnels Building  
1190 Saint Francis Drive (87505)  
PO Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469  
Phone (505) 827-2855 Fax (505) 827-2836  
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



RON CURRY  
Secretary  
SARAH COTTRELL  
Deputy Secretary

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For Immediate Release

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

**Environment Department Issues “Boil Water Advisory” for Cannon Air Force Base**  
*Customers are urged to Boil Water Prior to Drinking*

(Santa Fe, N.M.) (Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau has issued a “boil water advisory” for Cannon Air Force Base.

NMED issued the advisory on April 21 after bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level for E. coli was discovered in drinking water at the Cannon AFB. NMED requires Cannon to notify water consumers of the finding. This advisory only applies to the drinking water at the base and does not extend to any of the other surrounding water systems.

Consumers of water at the base 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.

Actions have been initiated to disinfect the water system and identify possible sources of contamination, establish acceptable disinfection, and flush out the water system. NMED’s Drinking Water Bureau will continue to provide assistance to the water system and will test the water until no further threat of contamination remains.

For more information, call NMED Communications Director Marissa Stone Bardino at (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475 or Mike Huber, Drinking Water Bureau Compliance Manager, at (505) 476-8638.

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