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Immediate Release

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Environment Department Lifts “Boil Water Order” for Boles Acres Water System

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau has advised Boles Acres Water System to lift a “boil water advisory” for its water system.

Boles Acres Water System, located about 6 miles south of Alamogordo in Otero County, was put on a “boil water order” June 9 due to bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for *E. coli*. NMED required that the system’s owner and operator notify all customers served by the system of this 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 entire water system.

Water samples collected since the shock chlorination and flushing have shown no Total Coliform or *E. coli* bacteria in the water system. Additionally, continuous disinfection equipment is being installed at the water system. These clean results have allowed NMED’s Drinking Water Bureau to advise Boles Acres 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.

The New Mexico Department of Health will remain on alert for any health effects linked to this water quality issue. Consumers of the water system may call (505) 827-0006, if they have any water-related health concerns.

For more information contact Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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