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For Immediate Release

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Environment Department Issues “Boil Water Advisory” for Vallecitos MDWCA
Customers are urged to Boil Water Prior to Drinking

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau issued a “boil water advisory” for the Vallecitos Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association in Rio Arriba County.

Customers of the water system are advised to boil water for five minutes before drinking, cooking, bathing and dishwashing.

NMED issued the advisory on April 23rd after it was determined that the water system is not meeting the treatment requirements for turbidity. NMED requires the water system, located in Rio Arriba County about 45 miles northwest of Española, to notify its consumers of the findings. The water supplied to adjacent areas by other water suppliers is not affected and is not under this boil water advisory.

Turbidity has no health effects; however, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. High turbidity levels may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. NMED sets drinking water standards and has determined that the presence of microbiological contaminants is a health concern at certain levels of exposure. If water is inadequately treated, microbiological contaminants in the water may cause disease. Disease symptoms may include diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches and fatigue. However, these symptoms are not just associated with disease causing organisms in drinking water and may be caused by other medical conditions. NMED has set enforceable requirements for treating drinking water to reduce the risk of these adverse health effects. Treatment such as filtering and disinfecting the water removes or destroys microbiological contaminants.

Actions have been initiated to correct and reduce the levels of turbidity entering the water system. NMED will continue to assist the water system and help identify the cause of the treatment problem.

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.