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

Bill Richardson
Governor

Ron Curry
Secretary
Jon Goldstein
Deputy Secretary

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For Immediate Release

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

NMED Lifts "Boil Water Advisory" for Lumberton Water System

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau advised the Lumberton Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) to lift a "boil water advisory" 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, and for the water system not meeting the Surface Water Treatment Rule for high turbidity levels. These findings, combined with an aging infrastructure that could allow contamination to enter the drinking water system prompted NMED to require the Lumberton Water System to advise consumers to boil all water prior to consumption.

NMED Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Development Division assisted the Lumberton MDWCA in obtaining funding for system improvements, provided technical assistance related to drinking water regulations, water system operation and management, and managed the construction of water system improvements. Through this joint cooperation and assistance, the Lumberton MDWCA has greatly improved the operations and management of the water system, and is providing water that now meets the requirements of the New Mexico Drinking Water Regulations. Water samples collected since completion of the water system improvements have shown no *E. coli* present in the 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.

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