

**SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR**Ryan Flynn, *Cabinet Secretary*Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****July 8, 2016**

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*The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.*

## **NM Environment Department Announces Drinking Water Safety Website for Morningstar and Harvest Gold Customers**

*Morningstar Under 2 Emergency Orders--Harvest Gold Could Face Similar Measures*

**Santa Fe** – Today, Governor Susana Martinez announced a [new drinking water safety website](https://www.env.nm.gov/dwb/avwer.htm) for the nearly 7,000 residents affected by a month-long boil water advisory. The website (<https://www.env.nm.gov/dwb/avwer.htm>) provides updates, a timeline of events, inspection reports, and actions taken by the New Mexico Environment Department to protect the residents under the boil advisory. Concerned residents can also call 877.654.8720 or email [Tanya.Trujillo2@state.nm.us](mailto:Tanya.Trujillo2@state.nm.us) if they have additional questions.

“Every New Mexican deserves access to clean drinking water. That’s why when water systems are out of compliance, we take immediate action and order them to address the issues quickly,” Governor Martinez said. “This issue remains a top priority for our Environment Department, and they will continue to stay on top of this until they are certain that the water is safe to drink.”

Two Emergency Orders were issued by the New Mexico Environment Department to Morningstar, after a June 2 inspection uncovered 28 significant deficiencies. Morningstar, with 6,423 customers, is pursuing an interconnection with the municipal water system of Farmington as a way to resolve the deficiencies. Morningstar is slated to install pumps and build out the infrastructure needed for the safe interconnection with the municipal water system of Farmington by July 15, as directed by the Environment Department’s Emergency Order.

Recently, a company representative for Morningstar reported to the New Mexico Environment Department that the system expects to meet the deadlines set by the Emergency Order. However, if they do not meet the deadline, a \$1,000 per day penalty will be enforced.

“The Boil Water Advisory continues for customers of the Morningstar Water System until the water is safe. We expect that to happen once the full interconnection with the Farmington Water system has been completed; once the system has been inspected by an independent third party; once the system has been flushed according to best management practices; and once the system has been sampled by the Environment Department to ensure no microbial contamination exists. Only after these fundamental water quality and safety criteria are met, can the boil water advisory be lifted,” said New Mexico Environment Department Deputy Secretary Butch Tongate.

(more)

The Harvest Gold Water System, serving 522 customers, is not under an Emergency Order, but that could change if they are too slow to address the 21 significant deficiencies uncovered in the Environment Department's June 2 inspection of that facility. The inspection followed customer complaints to the New Mexico Environment Department. A Boil Water Advisory for Harvest Gold customers was also issued June 3.

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