

SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNORButch Tongate, *Cabinet Secretary*J.C. Borrego, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****July 15, 2017****Media Contact:** Allison Scott Majure, NMED Communications Director
505.231.8800 | Allison.Majure@state.nm.us**Boil Water****Adv. Contact:** Brandi Garcia, NMED DWB Southern Area Supervisor
575.915.1113 | Brandi.Garcia@state.nm.us**Environment Department Issues “Boil Water Advisory” for
Artesia Municipal Water System and Morningside Water Users Cooperative**
Users Urged to Boil Water Prior to Drinking

Santa Fe—The New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau (NMED DWB) issued a “boil water advisory” for the Artesia Municipal Water System and Morningside Water Users Cooperative.

NMED issued the advisory on July 15, 2017 after bacteriological contamination (*E. coli*) was detected in repeat drinking water samples from the Artesia Municipal Water System’s water distribution system. Additionally, the boil water advisory is extended to the Morningside Water Users Cooperative due to the fact that Morningside receives 100 percent of their drinking water from the Artesia Municipal Water System. NMED requires Artesia Municipal Water System and Morningside Water Users Cooperative to notify their water system consumers of this finding.

Artesia Municipal Water System is a community public water system that serves approximately 14,000 people and the Morningside Water Users Cooperative is a community public water system that serves 358 people. Both public water systems are located in Eddy County.

This advisory applies to the drinking water from the Artesia Municipal Water System and Morningside Water Users Cooperative, **and does not** extend to the Artesia Rural Water Cooperative or any other surrounding water systems.

Consumers of the Artesia Municipal Water System and Morningside Water Users Cooperative are advised to boil the water for one minute before drinking, cooking, washing fruits and vegetables, feeding a baby, brushing teeth, preparing drinks, making ice, and providing drinking water for pets. More details about precautions can be found in the following fact sheet: https://www.env.nm.gov/dwb/Documents/Boil_NMDOHNMED_7.13.16.pdf

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.

The NMED Drinking Water Bureau provides technical assistance to the water system and requires the Artesia Municipal Water System to continue to test the water until no further threat of contamination remains. For more information, please contact NMED Drinking Water Bureau Southern Area Supervisor Brandi Garcia at (575) 915-1113.

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