

**SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR**

Butch Tongate, Cabinet Secretary

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**NEWS RELEASE***For Immediate Release***July 24, 2017***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.*

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## Environment Department Lifts “Boil Water Advisory” for Artesia Municipal Water System and Morningside Water Users Cooperative in Eddy County

**Santa Fe** –The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau is lifting the “boil water advisory” for the Artesia Municipal Water System and Morningside Water Users Cooperative located in Eddy County.

NMED issued the advisory on July 15, 2017 after bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for *E. coli* was discovered in drinking water at the water system. **The advisory only applied to customers served by the Artesia Municipal Water System and Morningside Water Users Cooperative and did not extend to any of the other surrounding water systems or communities.**

Consumers of water at the Artesia Municipal Water System and Morningside Water Users Cooperative were 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. 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 have indicated the presence of dangerous strains of *E. coli* or other disease-causing organisms. These types of organisms could cause severe gastrointestinal illness and, in rare cases, death. Children, the elderly and immuno-compromised individuals are at an increased risk for illness.

The New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau provided technical support to the Artesia Municipal Water System and Morningside Water Users Cooperative and subsequent samples collected from the water system were negative for bacteriological contamination. The Artesia Municipal Water System and Morningside Water Users Cooperative will be required to maintain a regular monitoring schedule to test the distribution system for the presence of Total coliform & *E. coli*.

For more information, call Brandi Garcia, Drinking Water Bureau Compliance Officer, at (575) 915-1113.

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