



## Environment Department

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

**May 1, 2019**

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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.*

### **NMED confirms “Boil Water Advisory” required for Rutherford Mutual Water Association in Rio Arriba County**

*90 users are urged to boil water prior to drinking*

**RUTHERON, N.M.** – The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau is confirming that a “boil water advisory” is necessary for users of the Rutherford Mutual Water Association in Rio Arriba County.

Rutherford Mutual Water Association was required to issue the advisory on May 1, 2019, after the water system notified the NMED Drinking Water Bureau that the water system’s turbidity levels were above the required standards. New Mexico drinking water regulations require Rutherford Mutual Water Association to notify its water system consumers of this finding as soon as practical but no later than 24 hours after the system is notified of the confirmation of the violation.

Rutherford Mutual Water Association is a community public water system that serves approximately 90 users. This advisory applies only to the drinking water from the Rutherford Mutual Water Association and **does not** extend to any other surrounding water systems.

Rutherford Mutual Water Association users are advised to boil water for one minute (3 minutes if above 6,500 feet in elevation) before drinking, cooking, washing fruits and vegetables, feeding a baby, brushing teeth, preparing drinks, making ice and providing drinking water for pets.

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

The NMED Drinking Water Bureau will provide compliance oversight and offer technical assistance to the water system and will require the Rutherford Mutual Water Association to continue to test the water until no further threat of contamination remains.

For more information about New Mexico’s Boil Water Advisories in English and Spanish please visit:

[https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking\\_water/boil-water-advisories/](https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/boil-water-advisories/).

For members of the public seeking more information on today’s announcement, please call NMED’s Drinking Water Bureau Surface Water Rule Administrator Joe Savage at 575-437-7115.

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**For Twitter:** NMED confirms “boil water advisory” required for Rutherford Mutual Water Association. Approx. 90 users urged to boil water prior to drinking. <http://bit.ly/2ekQRR9>

**For Facebook:** NM Environment Dept. confirms “boil water advisory” required for Rutherford Mutual Water Association. Approx. 90 users urged to boil water prior to drinking. More details about boil water advisories in English and Spanish can be found on the DWR’s webpage at: [https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking\\_water/boil-water-advisories/](https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/boil-water-advisories/). Rutherford Mutual Water Association is a community water system located in Rio Arriba County and serves approximately 90 users. <http://bit.ly/2ekQRR9>  
#NM, #NMED

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