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NEWS RELEASE

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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.

Environment Department Confirms “Boil Water Advisory” Required for Chapelle MDWCA in San Miguel County

Sixty users are urged to boil water prior to drinking

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau is confirming that a “boil water advisory” is required for the Chapelle MDWCA in San Miguel County.

Chapelle MDWCA was required to issue the advisory on June 28, 2019, after bacteriological contamination (*E. coli*) was detected in repeat drinking water samples from the water system’s distribution system. New Mexico drinking water regulations require Chapelle MDWCA to notify 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. The water system complied with this requirement.

Chapelle MDWCA is a community public water system that serves approximately 60 users. This advisory applies only to the drinking water from the Chapelle MDWCA and does not extend to any surrounding water systems.

Chapelle MDWCA 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.

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 will provide compliance oversight and offer technical assistance to the water system and requires the Chapelle MDWCA to continue to test the water until no further threat of contamination remains.

For more information about boil water advisories in English and Spanish, please visit:

https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/boil-water-advisories/. For more information on this announcement, call NMED’s Drinking Water Bureau Compliance Officer Wayne Jeffs at 505-476-8612 or 505-469-7457.

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