

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

Jennifer J. Pruett, Deputy Secretary

NEWS RELEASE*For Immediate Release***Sept. 25, 2019**

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 confirms “boil water advisory” required for
Mountain Orchard MDWCA in Otero County**
Customers are urged to boil water prior to drinking

OTERO COUNTY — The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau (DWB) is confirming that a “boil water advisory” is required for the Mountain Orchard MDWCA in Otero County.

The Mountain Orchard MDWCA was required to issue the advisory on Sept. 25, 2019, pursuant to New Mexico Drinking Water Regulations, after bacteriological contamination (*E. coli*) was detected in repeat drinking water samples from the water system’s distribution system. These regulations require Mountain Orchard MDWCA to notify their 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.

Mountain Orchard MDWCA is a community public water system that serves approximately 102 users. This advisory applies to the drinking water from the Mountain Orchard MDWCA **and does not** extend to any other surrounding water systems.

Mountain Orchard MDWCA users are advised to boil the water for one minute (three 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 will require the Mountain Orchard MDWCA to continue to test the water until no further threat of contamination remains.

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

https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/boil-water-advisories/ and for more information on today’s

announcement please call NMED's Drinking Water Bureau Compliance Officer John Pijawka at 575-258-3272.

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For your Twitter Feed: NM Environment Dept. confirms "boil water advisory" required for Mountain Orchard MDWCA. Approx. 102 users urged to boil water prior to drinking. <http://bit.ly/2ekQRR9> #NM, #NMED

For your Facebook Feed: NM Environment Dept. confirms "boil water advisory" required for Mountain Orchard MDWCA. Approx. 102 users urged to boil water prior to drinking. More details about boil water advisories in English and Spanish can be found on the DWB's webpage at: https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/boil-water-advisories/. Mountain Orchard MDWCA is a community located in Otero County and serves approximately 102 users. <http://bit.ly/2ekQRR9> #NM, #NMED

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If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator identified above.

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