

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release***April 23, 2020**

*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 Chama Water System in Rio Arriba County**

**RIO ARRIBA COUNTY** — The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau confirms a boil water advisory is required for the Chama Water System in Rio Arriba County.

Chama Water System was required to issue the advisory on April 22, 2020, after NMED issued a notice of violation to the system for failing to report water quality data from their treatment system. At this time, the Chama Water System's water quality cannot be determined. New Mexico drinking water regulations require the system to notify its consumers of the violation and boil advisory as soon as practical but no later than 24 hours after the system is notified of the violation. A precautionary boil advisory had been issued by the water system and in place since April 10<sup>th</sup> due to intermittent water outages in their system.

Chama Water System is a community public water system that serves approximately 1,570 people. This advisory applies only to the drinking water from the Chama Water System and does not extend to any other surrounding water systems. This advisory is not related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chama Water System users are advised to boil water for three minutes before:

- Drinking
- Making coffee, tea and other drinks
- Cooking
- Washing fruits and vegetables
- Using the water to feed a baby
- Brushing teeth
- Making ice
- Providing drinking water for pets

Turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms, including bacteria, viruses, and parasites.

The NMED Drinking Water Bureau is providing compliance oversight and technical assistance to the water system and is requiring the Chama Water System to continue to test the water until no further threat of contamination remains.

The state Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is working with the county to secure potable water for those who are unable to boil their water.

More information about boil water advisories in English and Spanish is available [here](#). For more information on today's announcement, call Joe Savage, NMED Drinking Water Bureau Surface Water Rule Administrator, at 575-973-0009.

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