

**MICHELL LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

**NEWS RELEASE***For Immediate Release***May 11, 2023**

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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 Chama Water System***1,573 Users are urged to Boil Water Prior to Drinking*

**RIO ARRIBA COUNTY** – The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau (DWB) is confirming that 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 May 10, 2023, after the water system notified NMED that the water system's turbidity levels were above the required standards. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water, it is used to indicate water quality and filtration effectiveness. New Mexico Drinking Water Regulations require Chama Water System 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.

Chama Water System is a community public water system that serves approximately 1,573 users. This advisory applies only to drinking water from the Chama Water System and **does not** extend to any other surrounding water systems.

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

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

No contamination in the water system has been confirmed, however, elevated levels of 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 Chama Water System to continue to test the water until no further threat of contamination remains.

More information about boil water advisories in English and Spanish is available [here](#). For more information on today's announcement, please call the Drinking Water Bureau's Compliance Supervisor, Wayne Jeffs at 505-469-7457.

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