



NEWS RELEASE

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Environment Department Issues “Boil Water Advisory” for Lovington Municipal Water Supply

Customers are urged to Boil Water Prior to Drinking

SANTA FE –The New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau issued a “boil water advisory” for the Lovington Municipal Water Supply.

NMED issued the advisory on March 12, 2015 after bacteriological contamination (*E. coli*) was detected in a drinking water sample from the system’s Well #31. NMED requires the Lovington Municipal Water Supply to notify water system consumers of this finding. Lovington Municipal Water Supply serves approximately 13588 residents and is located 20 miles North West of Hobbs, NM in Lea County.

This advisory only applies to the drinking water from the Lovington Municipal Water Supply, and does not extend to any other surrounding water systems.

Consumers of the Lovington Municipal Water Supply are advised to boil the water for five minutes before drinking, cooking, dishwashing and bathing. 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 technical assistance to the water system and Lovington Municipal Water Supply will continue to test the water until no further threat of contamination remains.

For more information, call Brandi Garcia, Drinking Water Bureau Compliance Officer, at (575) 973-0731.

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