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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Environment Department Lifts “Boil Water Advisory” for Lovington Municipal Water Supply**

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau is lifting the “boil water advisory” for the Lovington Municipal Water Supply located in Lea County.

NMED issued the advisory on March 12, 2015 after bacteriological contamination (*E. coli*) was detected in drinking water samples from one of the system’s wells. NMED required the Lovington Municipal Water Supply to notify water system consumers of this finding. Lovington Municipal Water Supply serves approximately 13,588 residents and is located 20 miles North of Hobbs, NM in Lea County.

**The advisory only applied to customers served by the Lovington Municipal Water Supply water system and did not extend to any other surrounding water systems or communities.**

The NMED Drinking Water Bureau provided technical assistance to the water system on March 12, 2015 and determined that Well #31 had *E-coli* present. The well has been physically disconnected from the drinking water supply. The Lovington Municipal Water Supply will maintain a regular monitoring schedule to ensure adequate levels of disinfection, as well as continue to test the distribution system for the presence of *E. coli*.

Consumers of water of the Lovington Municipal Water Supply were advised to boil 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 had indicated the presence of dangerous strains of *E. coli* or other disease-causing organisms. These types of organisms could cause severe gastrointestinal illness and, in rare cases, death. Children, the elderly and immuno-compromised individuals are at an increased risk for illness.

For more information, call NMED Communications Director Jill Turner at (505) 205-6964 or Brandi Garcia, Drinking Water Bureau Compliance Officer at (575) 973-0731.