

SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNORRyan Flynn, *Cabinet Secretary*Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****July 8, 2014**

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**Environment Department Lifts “Boil Water Advisory” for  
Pine Springs Summer Camp in Otero County**

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau is lifting the “boil water advisory” for the Pine Springs Summer Camp located near Weed, New Mexico in Otero County.

NMED issued the advisory on June 1, 2012 after bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for *E. coli* was discovered in drinking water at the water system. **The advisory only applied to customers served by the Pine Springs Summer Camp and did not extend to any of the other surrounding water systems or communities.**

Consumers of water at the Pine Springs Summer Camp were 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 have 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.

Through additional sampling, it was determined that the source of the *E. coli* at Pine Springs Summer Camp came from a spring that was used as a drinking water source. Pine Springs Summer Camp has recently decided to permanently remove the spring water as a source for drinking water and will only receive water from two other ground water wells.

The NMED Drinking Water Bureau has also provided technical assistance to the water system and determined that adequate disinfection (chlorination) was provided at a level that mitigates the potential threat to public health. The Pine Springs Summer Camp 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*.

For more information, call NMED Communications Director Jim Winchester at (505) 231-8800 or Ray Melendrez, Drinking Water Bureau Area Supervisor, at (575) 647-7955.