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NEWS RELEASE

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Environment Department Issues “Boil Water Advisory” for El Ancon Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) Water System *Customers are urged to Boil Water Prior to Drinking*

(Santa Fe, N.M.) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau issued a “Boil Water Advisory” for the El Ancon Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) Water System.

NMED issued the advisory on August 16, 2013 after bacteriological contamination (*E. coli*) was detected in a repeat monitoring sample. Total coliform was also detected in one of the required monthly drinking water samples from the system collected on August 12, 2013. NMED requires the El Ancon MDWCA Water System to notify water system consumers of this finding. El Ancon MDWCA Water System serves approximately 120 residents and is located approximately 2 miles north of Ribera, NM near I-25 & State Highway 3 in San Miguel County.

This advisory only applies to the drinking water from the El Ancon MDWCA Water System, and does not extend to any other surrounding water systems.

Consumers of the El Ancon MDWCA Water System 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 El Ancon MDWCA Water System will continue to test the water until no further threat of contamination remains. For more information, call NMED Communications Director Jim Winchester at (505) 831-8800 or Maria Medina, Drinking Water Bureau Compliance Officer, at (505) 476-8629.