

SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNORRyan Flynn, *Cabinet Secretary-Designate*Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****August 16, 2013**

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**Environment Department Lifts “Boil Water Advisory” for
Jal Water Supply System in Lea County**

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

NMED issued the advisory on August 14, 2013 after bacteriological contamination (*E. coli*) was detected in drinking water sample from the system’s Well #1. NMED requires the Jal Water Supply System to notify water system consumers of this finding. Jal Water Supply System serves approximately 2000 residents and is located 45 miles South of Hobbs, NM in Lea County.

The advisory only applied to customers served by the Jal Water Supply System and did not extend to any of the other surrounding water systems or communities.

Consumers of water at the Jal Water Supply System 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 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.

The NMED Drinking Water Bureau provided technical assistance to the water system and determined that the Well that had E-coli present has been physically disconnected from the drinking water supply. The Jal Water Supply System 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.