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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Environment Department Issues “Boil Water Advisory” for Ramah Water & Sanitation District 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 Ramah Water & Sanitation District Water System in McKinley County.

NMED issued the advisory on October 3, 2013 after bacteriological contamination (*E. coli*) was detected in a routine monitoring sample on September 26, 2013. Total coliform were also detected in six samples collected from the system on September 30, 2013. NMED requires the Ramah Water & Sanitation District Water System to notify water system consumers of this finding. **Ramah Water & Sanitation District Water System serves approximately 500 residents and is located approximately 50 miles west of Grants, NM, in McKinley County.**

This advisory only applies to the drinking water from the Ramah Water & Sanitation District Water System, and does not extend to any other surrounding water systems.

Consumers of the Ramah Water & Sanitation District 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 Ramah Water & Sanitation District 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 Glenn Deguzman, Compliance Officer, at (505) 222-9538.

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