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NEWS RELEASE

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Environment Department Issues “Boil Water Advisory” for ConocoPhillips Buckeye Water System *Customers are urged to Boil Water Prior to Drinking*

(Santa Fe, N.M.) –The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau issued a “boil water advisory” for the ConocoPhillips Buckeye Water System, located approximately 10 miles southwest of Lovington, NM in Lea County.

NMED issued the advisory on December 4, 2014 after total coliform bacteria were detected in routine sampling and bacteriological contamination (*E. coli*) was detected in required repeat drinking water samples from the system. NMED requires the ConocoPhillips Buckeye Water System to notify water system consumers of this finding. ConocoPhillips Buckeye serves approximately 100 employees.

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

Consumers of the ConocoPhillips Buckeye 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 the ConocoPhillips Buckeye 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) 827-0314, or Ray Melendrez, Drinking Water Bureau Supervisor, at (575) 647-7955.

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