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July 19, 2010
For Immediate Release

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Environment Department Lifts “Boil Water Advisory” for Socorro Water System

(Santa Fe, N.M.) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau is lifting a “boil water advisory” for the Socorro Water System.

NMED issued the advisory on July 16, 2010 after bacteriological contamination (E. coli) was discovered in one of the drinking water sources for the Socorro Water System. NMED required the Socorro Water System to notify water consumers of the finding. This advisory only applied to the drinking water at the Socorro Water System, and did not extend to any of the other surrounding water systems.

Consumers of water at the Socorro Water 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 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 provided technical assistance to the water system and determined that adequate disinfection (chlorination) is provided at a level that mitigates the potential threat to public health. The Socorro Water System will maintain a regular monitoring schedule to ensure adequate levels of disinfection, and continue to test the distribution system for the presence of E. coli.

For more information, call NMED Communications Director Marissa Stone Bardino at (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475 or Mike Huber, Drinking Water Bureau Compliance Manager, at (505) 660-3834.

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