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Environment Department Lifts “BOIL WATER ORDER” for the Coyote Creek MDWCA

(Albuquerque, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau has advised the Coyote Creek MDWCA in Catron County to lift a “boil water order” for its water system.

The Coyote Creek MDWCA, which is located on the western edge of Catron County just south of State Highway 60 and serves approximately 200 residents, was put on a “Boil Water Advisory” on July 13, 2007 due to bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for *E. coli*. NMED required that the system’s owner and operator notify all the consumers served by the system of this finding.

Actions to disinfect the water system and identify possible sources of contamination were promptly taken. These actions included chlorination and flushing of the affected portion of the water system.

Water samples collected since the chlorination and flushing have shown no Total Coliform or *E. coli* bacteria in the water system. These clean results have allowed NMED’s Drinking Water Bureau to advise the Coyote Creek MDWCA to lift the “boil water order” for its water system.

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, which are sometimes found in sewage or animal wastes. These types of organisms may cause severe gastrointestinal illness and, in rare cases, even death. Children, the elderly, and immuno-compromised individuals are at an increased risk for illness.

The New Mexico Department of Health will remain on alert for any health effects linked to this water quality issue. For more information contact Marissa Stone, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314 or Charles Thomas, Area Manager at (505) 222-9532.