



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Drinking Water Bureau

1170 North Solano, Suite M
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001
Telephone (505) 524-6300 ♦ Fax (505) 526-3891



RON CURRY
SECRETARY

CINDY PADILLA
DEPUTY SECRETARY

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Contact: Ricardo G. Jacquez, Area Manager
Phone: (505) 524-6300
Contact: Marisa Stone, NMED Communications Dir.
Phone: (505) 827-0314

Environment Department Lifts “BOIL WATER ORDER” for G & S Water Works

(Las Cruces, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau has advised G & S Water Works to lift a “boil water order” for its water system.

The G & S Water Works, is located in Southern Grant County and serves approximately 60 residents in the community of Hachita was put on a “Boil Water Advisory” on July 17, 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 entire 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 G &S Water Works 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. Consumers of the water system may call (505) 528-5058, if they have any water-related health concerns.

For more information contact Marisa Stone, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314 or Ricardo Jacquez, Area Manager at (505) 524-6300.