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April 29, 2010
For Immediate Release

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Environment Department Issues “Boil Water Alert” for Turquoise Trail Elementary School in Santa Fe County

Customers are urged to Boil Water Prior to Drinking

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau issued a “boil water advisory” for the Turquoise Trail Elementary School water system in Santa Fe County.

NMED issued the advisory on April 29 after bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for *E. coli* was discovered in drinking water from the Turquoise Trail Elementary School water system. NMED requires Turquoise Trail Elementary School water system to notify its consumers of the finding. This advisory only applies to the drinking water at the school and does not extend to any of the other surrounding water systems.

Consumers of water at the school 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, even death. Children, the elderly and immuno-compromised individuals are at an increased risk for illness.

Actions have been initiated to disinfect the water system and identify possible sources of contamination, establish acceptable disinfection, and flush out the water system. The Drinking Water Bureau will continue to provide assistance to the water system and help identify the source of the problem.

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) 476-8638.

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