**NEWS RELEASE**

**October 3, 2013**

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Environment Department Issues “Boil Water Advisory” for  
Ramah Water & Sanitation District Water System  
*Customers are urged to Boil Water Prior to Drinking*

(Santa Fe, N.M.) – The New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau issued a “Boil Water Advisory” for the Ramah Water & Sanitation District Water System in McKinley County.

NMED issued the advisory on October 3, 2013 after bacteriological contamination (E. coli) was detected in a routine monitoring sample on September 26, 2013. Total coliform were also detected in six samples collected from the system on September 30, 2013. NMED requires the Ramah Water & Sanitation District Water System to notify water system consumers of this finding. Ramah Water & Sanitation District Water System serves approximately 500 residents and is located approximately 50 miles west of Grants, NM, in McKinley County.

This advisory only applies to the drinking water from the Ramah Water & Sanitation District Water System, and does not extend to any other surrounding water systems.

Consumers of the Ramah Water & Sanitation District 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 Ramah Water & Sanitation District 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) 831-8800 or Glenn Deguzman, Compliance Officer, at (505) 222-9538.

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