



Environment Department

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

NEWS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

September 29, 2026

Contact: Jorge Estrada, Public Relations Coordinator
New Mexico Environment Department
505.690.5326 | jorge.estrada@env.nm.gov

The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

NMED confirms boil water advisory for Waterfall Community WUA Customers are urged to boil water prior to drinking

OTERO COUNTY — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has confirmed a boil water advisory is required for the Waterfall Community Water Users Association in Otero County near Cloudcroft.

Waterfall Community WUA customers should boil water for at least one minute before using it for drinking, cooking, washing fruits and vegetables, preparing infant formula, brushing teeth, preparing beverages, making ice or providing drinking water to pets. At elevations above 6,500 feet, water should be boiled for three minutes.

Waterfall Community WUA is a community public water system serving approximately 342 people. The advisory applies only to drinking water provided by Waterfall Community WUA and does not extend to surrounding water systems.

The system was required to issue the advisory on Sept. 24, 2026, after bacteriological contamination was detected in repeat drinking water samples collected from the system's distribution system.

Under New Mexico drinking water regulations, Waterfall Community WUA is required to notify consumers of the confirmed violation as soon as practical and no later than 24 hours after receiving notification.

E. coli in drinking water indicates the water may have been contaminated through contact with sewage or animal waste and could contain disease-causing organisms.

While most strains of E. coli are harmless and naturally occur in the intestines of healthy humans and animals, a positive E. coli test in a drinking water supply may indicate the presence of harmful strains. These organisms can cause severe gastrointestinal illness and, in rare cases, death. Children, older adults and people with compromised immune systems may face an increased risk of illness.

NMED will provide compliance oversight and technical assistance to Waterfall Community WUA. The Department will require the water system to continue testing until monitoring confirms that no further threat of contamination remains.

For more facts about New Mexico's boil water advisories in English and Spanish visit https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/boil-water-advisories/ and for more information on

today's announcement call NMED Water Protection Compliance and Enforcement Bureau Compliance Supervisor Brandi Littleton at (575) 323-4298.

###

NMED does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in the administration of its programs or activities, as required by applicable laws and regulations. NMED is responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. If you have any questions about this notice or any of NMED's non-discrimination programs, policies or procedures, you may contact: Kate Cardenas, Non-Discrimination Coordinator | NMED | 1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050 | P.O. Box 5469 | Santa Fe, NM 87502 or (505) 827-2855 or nd.coordinator@env.nm.gov. If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator.

###

SCIENCE | INNOVATION | COLLABORATION | COMPLIANCE