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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Animas River Contamination Updated information for Residents

Aztec, NM – A public meeting was held on 8/8/15 at the Farmington Civic Center in which Federal, Navajo Nation, State, and local officials updated community members and stood for questions. The New Mexico Environment Department has teamed up with local community officials to begin testing. At receipt of the results, they will be made immediately available to the public. Until it can be determined what is in the contamination plume, the Animas River is closed by emergency declaration. **No contact with the water by people, pets, or livestock.**

At a press conference in Berg Park, Farmington, NM, Governor Susana Martinez pledged her support for the residents of San Juan County.

New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ryan Flynn assured the community that “if you have a water bill then your water is safe”. The City of Farmington has water reserves that will last approximately 90 days and the City of Aztec approximately 30 days. After that time, both Cities have access to the uncontaminated water of the San Juan River. **Residents can be assured that Municipal and Domestic Water Utilities are safe from contamination.**

Residents on private water wells within the floodplain of the river, as a precaution, are asked to avoid contact with water from wells until it has been tested for contamination. A list of identified at risk wells can be found on the NMED web site: www.nmedriversafety.org The NMED will also be providing free testing for residents that have wells within the floodplain of the Animas River starting Monday 8/10/15 – Friday 8/14/15, 9am to 5pm, at McGee Park off of Rd 5500. Bring a ½ gallon sample of water.

Water wells that are not located within the floodplain of the river should be safe from contamination. For those who are in need of water for livestock, New Mexico State University Agricultural Extension Agent, Bonnie Hopkins is coordinating water deliveries with the San Juan County Volunteer Fire Department and through local oil and gas resources. Contact the San Juan County Extension Office at 505-334-9496.

CHAP, NM Department of Health, and the Red Cross will be coordinating efforts to reach the homeless population that is dependent on the river for water.

Additional potable water stations and times have been established to assist those in need of clean drinking/cooking water.

Potable water stations have been set up for residents at the following locations:

In Farmington:

Farmington Fire Station #6 – 3101 West Main St.

Sycamore Park Community Center – 1051 Sycamore St.

In the County:

Center Point Fire Station # 1 – 16 Road 2755

Flora Vista Fire Station #1 – 2 Road 3275

Valley Fire Station #4 – 4 Road 6200

Stations will be open:

Sunday 8/9/15 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Monday 8/10/15 – Friday 8/14/15 6:00pm to 7:00pm

Bring your own water containers. No large tanks.

As more information becomes available, updates will be sent out via media releases and on Facebook at the following locations:

San Juan County Office of Emergency Management (www.sjcoem.com and

www.facebook.com/sanjuancountyofficeofemergencymanagement)

San Juan County Government (www.sjcounty.net and facebook – San Juan County, New Mexico. Government)

City of Farmington (www.fmtn.org and www.facebook.com/cityoffarmingtonnm)

Farmington Fire Department (www.facebook.com/Farmingtonfire)

Farmington Police Department (www.facebook.com/farmingtonpolicedepartmentnm)

City of Aztec Municipal Government Offices (www.aztecnnm.gov and facebook – City of Aztec Municipal Government Offices)

NMSU Cooperative Extension Service 505-334-9496

NMED web site www.nmedriverwatersafety.org

US EPA web site http://epaossc.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=11082

Information is also available on the La Plata County website at <http://www.co.laplata.co.us/emergency>, San Juan Basin Health Department's Website at www.sjbhd.org, La Plata County Government Facebook and San Juan Basin Health Department Facebook.

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