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WATER QUALITY ASSOCIATION PRESS RELEASE

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Reverse osmosis systems remove nitrates

New Mexico consumers can protect themselves

LISLE, Illinois — Residents of Torrance County worried about nitrates in their water can protect themselves with the use of a home-based reverse osmosis system.

Responding to reports that nitrates were found in water supplied by Homestead Water Company, the Water Quality Association reminds citizens that RO units effectively remove the element. New Mexico's Environment Department announced the finding on nitrates last week.

WQA tests and certifies products for effectiveness. The association uses independent standards established by the NSF International/American National Standards Institute (NSF/ANSI).

Nitrates which are ingested by infants or young farm animals are changed into dangerous nitrites, which can seriously affect the blood's ability to release oxygen. Once these nitrites enter the circulatory system, they combine with the blood's hemoglobin and prevent life-sustaining oxygen from being carried to body tissues.

To find a directory of certified RO units, visit wqa.org. The "Gold Seal Certified Products" button leads to a "Search by Reduction Claims" function. By typing "nitrates," consumers can find a full list of RO units certified for effective nitrate reduction performance.

For more information or to find locally certified water professionals and Gold Seal certified products, visit wqa.org. The Water Quality Association is a non-profit international trade association representing the residential, commercial, industrial and small community water treatment industry. WQA is a resource and information source, a voice for the industry, an educator of professionals, a laboratory for product testing, and a communicator with the public. WQA has more than 2,500 members nationwide.