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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOIL WATER ALERT

The Westchester County Department of Health today announced that a mandatory "boil water" alert is in place for Harrison Water District #1, which encompasses the Town of Harrison West of I-684 and North of I-287. This includes the area of Harrison south of Rye Lake to the White Plains and North Castle borders. Approximately 7,700 people are affected.

Residents and businesses in that area are directed to boil their water for a minimum of two minutes before consumption. Dentists should not use their friction water suppression systems. The Health Commissioner has directed the Water District to notify all major users in the area.

The boil water alert was put in place by the Health Department due to a lack of chlorine in the system for up to 24 hours prior to 8:30 a.m. this morning. The lack of chlorine was apparently due to an equipment malfunction. The malfunction has been corrected. The Water District notified the Westchester County Department of Health at 11: 15 a.m. The Health Department is overseeing tests of the water for contaminating bacteria (E. coli), and will lift the advisory when tests results allow. This likely will be within a day or two, but will be dependent on test results. Thus far, no contamination has been noted.

"Although there is some inconvenience in boiling water which is used for consumption, it is necessary to protect the public from any contamination which may have entered the water system during this period," noted Dr. Joshua Lipsman, Westchester County Health Commissioner.

A "boil water" alert means that residents in the affected communities are instructed to boil all tap water at a roiling boil for a minimum of two minutes prior to consumption. The "boil water" alert remains in effect until further notice.

As an alternative to boiling water, people may use bottled water. Water used for bathing, washing dishes and washing clothes does NOT have to be boiled. Boiled or bottled water should be used for brushing teeth. Public water fountains in schools and other public places should be covered to prevent members of the public from drinking water.

Residents who wish to verify if they are in the impacted area should contact Robert Viscome, Harrison Water District #1, at (914) 949-3287.

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