# Timeline: Salmonella Typhimurium Investigation

Overview of the investigation into the source of contamination in peanut products: February 2009



#### December 3 - January 6

• The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) coordinates with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) amid reports of illnesses caused by *Salmonella* Typhimurium. During this time, there is no substantial evidence that a product primarily regulated by FDA is suspected.

# January 9

- FDA initiates inspection and sample collections at PCA in Georgia, and continues to follow the distribution points for products.
- PCA ceases production and shipment of peanut paste and peanut butter.

#### January 13

 PCA announces a voluntary recall of 21 specific lots of peanut butter and peanut paste produced in its Blakely, Ga. facility on or after July 1, 2008.

#### January 7—

- CDC reports 388 people infected with *Salmonella* Typhimurium in 42 states.
- CDC, FDA, and the Minnesota Department of Health participate in a conference call to discuss peanut butter as a possible source of the outbreak.

# January 8

- Based on preliminary data from CDC and an investigation by the Minnesota Department of Health of illnesses in Minnesota, FDA initiates inspection and collects samples at a peanut butter distributor, King Nut.
- FDA determines that the manufacturer of King Nut brand peanut butter is Peanut Corporation of America (PCA) in Blakely, Ga.

#### January 10

- King Nut announces a recall of peanut butter distributed under the King Nut and Parnell's Pride labels.
- The Minnesota
   Department of
   Agriculture Laboratory
   isolates the outbreak
   strain of Salmonella
   Typhimurium from an
   open 5-pound container
   of King Nut brand
   creamy peanut butter.

# January 12

- FDA announces its collaboration with CDC, USDA, and state public health officials to investigate a multi-state outbreak of infections due to *Salmonella* Typhimurium.
- FDA begins to post company press releases about recalls on its Web site.

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#### - January 16

- PCA expands its recall to include all peanut butter produced on or after August 8, 2008, and all peanut paste produced on or after September 26, 2008.
- Connecticut Department of Public Health Laboratory and the Georgia Department of Agriculture independently isolate and report finding *Salmonella* in <u>unopened</u>
   5-pound containers of King Nut brand peanut butter.

### January 27 -

 FDA completes investigation at Blakely Georgia facility and issues a Form 483 containing inspectional observations.

# January 28

 PCA expands its recall to all dry- and oil-roasted peanuts and peanut products (including peanut butter and peanut paste) processed in its Blakely, Georgia facility since Jan. 1, 2007. All production stops at PCA's Blakely facility.

# Ongoing

 FDA continues to conduct followup audits and inspections, monitor the progress of the firms' actions, work with state and local regulatory authorities, and notify foreign regulatory counterparts.

# January 17

 FDA announces that it notified PCA that product samples originating from its Blakely, Ga., processing plant have been tested and found positive for *Salmonella* by labs in Minnesota and Georgia.

# January 18

 FDA announces that it notified PCA that product samples originating from its Blakely, Ga.,
 PCA expands its recall to include more peanut butter and peanut paste produced on or after July 1, 2008.

#### January 19 —

- FDA posts a searchable database so that consumers can search for recalled products.
- Connecticut Department of Public Health announces its King Nut sample is a genetic match to the outbreak strain.

# January 21

- FDA announces that a combination of epidemiological analysis and laboratory testing by state officials in Minnesota and Connecticut, FDA, and CDC have enabled the Agency to confirm that the sources of the outbreak of illnesses caused by *Salmonella* Typhimurium are peanut butter and peanut paste produced by PCA at its Blakely, Georgia processing plant.
- FDA announces that some of the recalls now include pet food products that contain peanut paste that was made by PCA.
- FDA initiates inspection at PCA facility in Texas, and continues inspections at PCA facilities in Georgia and Virginia.