Timeline: Salmonella Typhimurium Investigation

Overview of the investigation into the source of contamination in peanut products: March 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 of illnesses in Minnesota by the Minnesota Department of Health, 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 unopened 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.

February 4-

 After obtaining additional information related to the transfer of products between PCA Georgia and PCA Texas, FDA returns to initiate a comprehensive inspection of PCA's facility in Plainview, Texas

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 the Peanut Corporation of America (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.

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February 10

 PCA voluntarily ceases operations at its Plainview, TX plant.

February 18 -

• FDA confirms outbreak strain of Salmonella Typhimurium in two consumer samples of fresh-ground (in-store) peanut butter from Vitamin Cottage.

February 12

• The State of Texas issues emergency and recall orders directing PCA to cease the manufacture and distribution of all food products from the Texas plant and to recall all products manufactured at the plant.

February 26 -

 FDA announces that it is coordinating its efforts with the State of Texas to notify companies that received product from PCA's Plainview, Texas facility from January 1, 2007 forward.

Ongoing

 FDA continues to conduct follow-up audits and inspections, work with state and local regulatory authorities, and notify foreign regulatory counterparts.

February 13

• PCA files for bankruptcy protection.

February 19

 FDA confirms Salmonella (later identified as the outbreak strain) in a sample of peanut meal collected at the PCA Texas facility.

March 3

• FDA completes inspection of PCA's Plainview, Texas facility and issues a Form 483 containing inspectional observations.

February 20

 PCA issues a statement informing customers who received products from its Georgia or Texas plants not to distribute or further use those products and, in light of PCA's bankruptcy, to contact FDA regarding matters related to the recall.