



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Secretary
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110
Telephone (505) 827-2855



RON CURRY
SECRETARY

CINDY PADILLA
DEPUTY SECRETARY

February 15, 2007
For Immediate Release

Contact: Marissa Stone, NMED Communications Director
Telephone: (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475
or NMDOH's Epidemiology Division at (505) 827-0006

Environment Department Supports National Peanut Butter Recall tied to Salmonella Outbreak

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department contacted stores statewide Thursday to help support a national recall of Peter Pan and Great Value brands of peanut butter with product codes 2111 on the lid after those products were linked to a national outbreak of gastrointestinal illness caused by Salmonella.

New Mexico is one of 39 states to report a total of 288 cases to date associated with the outbreak. New Mexico has only one case to date, an adult from Valencia County who reported the illness in December 2006.

“The Environment Department’s Food Program staff visited and called stores in New Mexico today to make sure grocers remove those products from shelves,” said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. “We are working with the Department of Health to make sure New Mexicans are aware of this and can avoid becoming ill.”

Symptoms of foodborne illness caused by Salmonella include fever, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. In persons with poor underlying health or weakened immune systems, Salmonella can invade the bloodstream and cause life-threatening infections. Residents who become sick with an illness suggestive of Salmonella infection after eating peanut butter should call their doctor.

Residents who ate the recalled peanut butter and did not become ill should discard the product or contact the producer for a refund. Peter Pan and Great Value brand peanut butter are manufactured at a ConAgra facility in Georgia (Consumers who have questions should contact ConAgra at 866-344-6970). Great Value peanut butter made by other manufacturers is not affected.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reports the outbreak appears to be ongoing and the first consumer may have become ill in August 2006. ConAgra is recalling all Peter Pan and Great Value peanut butter beginning with product code 2111 that already was distributed. The company also is destroying all affected products in their possession. The company will cease production until the exact cause of contamination can be identified and eliminated.

For the latest information on the outbreak and recall, visit the FDA's Recalls, Market Withdrawals and Safety Alerts Page at <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html>.

For more information, call NMED Communications Director Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475 or NMDOH's Epidemiology Division at (505) 827-0006.

###