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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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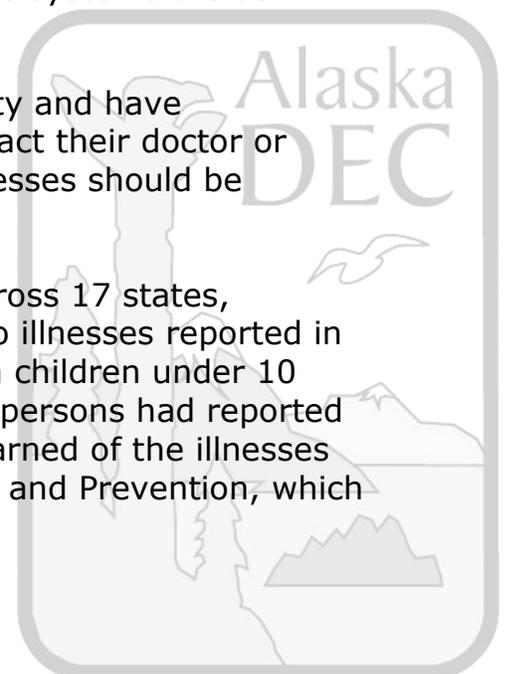
### **DEC Warns Consumers Not to Eat Veggie Booty Snack Food** *Risk of Salmonella Contamination*

**Juneau, Alaska**--The Department of Environmental Conservation is warning consumers not to eat Veggie Booty snack food, marketed by Robert's American Gourmet, due to possible contamination with Salmonella Wandsworth bacteria, which causes gastrointestinal illness. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advises consumers to discard all lot numbers and varieties of Veggie Booty, which is sold in four ounce, one ounce, and one-half ounce flexible plastic foil packages.

Salmonella is an infection caused by bacteria that can be found in contaminated food. Symptoms include fever, abdominal cramps and diarrhea. The illness typically lasts four to seven days, and most people recover without needing treatment. Some, however, may experience more serious symptoms and require hospitalization. Without prompt treatment, severe illness can lead to death. The elderly, infants and people with impaired immune systems are at greatest risk for severe illness.

Individuals who have recently eaten Veggie Booty and have experienced any of these symptoms should contact their doctor or health care provider immediately. Any such illnesses should be reported to state or local health authorities.

This warning is based on 52 reports of illness across 17 states, beginning in March 2007. Currently, there are no illnesses reported in Alaska. Almost all the illnesses have occurred in children under 10 years old, with the most cases in toddlers. Most persons had reported bloody diarrhea; four were hospitalized. FDA learned of the illnesses on June 27 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which



conducted an investigation of the illnesses with state and local health officials. Health officials consider the outbreak to be ongoing.

Robert's American Gourmet, of Sea Cliff, N.Y., which markets Veggie Booty, and its contract manufacturer, are fully cooperating with FDA's investigation into the cause of the contamination. Manufacturing and distribution of this product have ceased, and Robert's American Gourmet is recalling all potentially contaminated product including all expiration dates and lot codes. The product is sold in all 50 states and Canada at retail locations and over the Internet.

FDA will provide updates as the investigation progresses and more information becomes available.

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