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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Ron Klein, Food Safety & Sanitation Program Manager, (907) 269-7501

### **DEC Cautions Consumers: Canned French Cut Green Beans Pose Possible Risk of Botulism**

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is cautioning consumers about another product recall—French Cut Green Beans. DEC is working with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and distributors to determine if certain French Cut Green Beans in 14.5 ounce cans have reached Alaska.

The affected Lakeside cut green beans are sold nationwide under the following labels: Albertson's, Happy Harvest, Best Choice, Food Club, Bogopa, Valu Time, Hill Country Fare, HEB, Laura Lynn, Kroger, No Name, North Pride, Shop N Save, Shoppers Valu, Schnucks, Cub Foods, Dierbergs, Flavorite, IGA, Best Choice and Thrifty Maid. The specific codes (top line of can code) involved are: EAA5247, EAA5257, EAA5267, EAA5277, EAB5247, EAB5257, ECA5207, ECA5217, ECA5227, ECA5297, ECB5207, ECB5217, ECB5227, ECB5307.

Consumers who have any of these products or any foods made with these products should dispose of them immediately. The canned green beans may cause botulism poisoning if consumed. If the code on an affected can is missing or unreadable, throw the product away. The product may not have been processed adequately to eliminate the potential for botulism toxin. As of August 1, 2007, neither DEC nor the FDA had received reports of illnesses related to the product.

Lakeside Foods has informed the FDA that it is voluntarily recalling all of the potentially contaminated products. Consumers with any questions or concerns about the recall should call the company at 800-466-3834 ext. 4090.

The botulism toxin is very potent, and botulism is a life-threatening illness. Symptoms of botulism can begin from six hours to two weeks

after eating food that contains the toxin. The symptoms may include double vision, blurred vision, drooping eyelids, slurred speech, difficulty swallowing, dry mouth, and muscle weakness that moves progressively down the body, affecting the shoulders first then descending to the upper arms, lower arms, thighs, and calves. Botulism also may cause paralysis of the breathing muscles, which can result in death unless assistance with breathing (mechanical ventilation) is provided. Individuals who show these symptoms and who may have recently eaten the product should seek immediate medical attention.

Updates will be made as more information about product distribution becomes available. This warning is not related to another recent warning for botulism in canned chili and beef stew products.

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