FILE NAME: Talc (TALC)

DATE: 1971 Sept 27

DOC#: TALC428

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to Desert Minerals, Inc. from Phillips Petroleum Co.

PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY
BARTLESVILLE, OKLAHOMA 74004 918 336-6600
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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September 23, 1971

FDA Status of Talc
Schm-178-71

Mr. E. J. Ellsworth
President
Desert Minerals, Inc.
1891 South Coast Highway
Laguna Beach, California 92651

Dear Mr. Ellsworth:

Thank you for your letter of September 2, 1971, with the attached information concerning the FDA status of Desertalc 56 and Desertalc 57. Copies of correspondence from Alfred A. Russell of FDA's Division of Case Guidance was of special interest. We have proposed a specific formulation for a talc-filled resin and described the proposed use conditions in a letter to FDA and are awaiting a response.

It is our understanding that the FDA is considering the publication of a food additives regulation that will list permissible pigments for use in polymers such as polyolefins. According to the Food Chemical News of August 23, 1971, the pigments listed under Section 121.2514 (xxvi) will probably be included. As you are aware, talc is listed in this group of pigments.

With regard to the second question in my letter of August 23, 1971 and your comments, this question was prompted by the attached item which appeared in the Chemical and Engineering News of July 12, 1971. This item indicates that concern has been expressed over the presence of tremolite, a form of asbestos, in infant talcum powders. This caused us to wonder about the amounts of tremolite, serpentine and anthophyllite in your talcs. We know of no present regulation which would limit the presence of these materials, however. In fact, Section 121.2562 of the food additives regulations permits the use of asbestos in rubber articles intended for repeated contact use. We would be interested in knowing the results of any studies you may make which will identify and measure the amounts of incidental minerals present in your talcs.

Very truly yours,

A. Merrill Schnitzer

Dr. A. Merrill Schnitzer
Food, Drug and Toxicant Coordinator
356 Research Building 1

AMS:ftm
Attachment

See particularly Dora M.'s memo 9/27/71 and Schnitzer's letter of 8/23/71
BJE

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