MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

August 19, 1980

29 AUG 1980

1980 SEP -3 PM 12: 14

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Carl Turska, J.M. Huber Co, Telephone 301-939-3500

Dr. Carl Johnson, GRAS Review Branch, HFF-335

SUBJECT: GRAS status of attapulgite clay and colloidal magnesium aluminum silicate as "suspending agents" in food.

I outlined to Mr. Turska the previous GRAS opinion letters pertaining to attapulgite clay and to colloidal magnesium aluminum silicate. Mr. Turska is interested in using these ingredients as a "suspending agent" in food. I indicated that this use is covered for colloidal magnesium aluminum silicate in a October 27, 1960 GRAS opinion letter, provided that the ingredient meets the specifications for lead and heavy metals outlined in the letter.

Attapulgite clay is not mentioned for this use. However, Mr. Turska indicated his belief that attapulgite clay and colloidal magnesium aluminum silicate are essentially the same. I requested him to provide information in support of his belief.

<u>fuller's earth</u>

1. Prior sanctioned for use in refining rendered animal fats
2. Not a food additive for use as a filter, provided the fuller's earth is processed in accord with gmp, and HM content meets gmp, 7/8/60.

780-0031

MT 1

attapulgite clay

1. GRAS for purifying vegetable oils, 7/20/60.
2. GRAS in mfr of paper & paperboard, 7/20/60.
3. GRAS in mfr of food packaging materials, 8/14/67.

colloidal magnesium aluminum silicate

1. GRAS for use as emulsion stabilizer and suspending agent (HM<10ppm, avg lead 7ppm (range 2-12ppm)), 10/27/60.
2. GRAS for use as inert filler in vitamin/mineral preparations, 8/22/61.

cc:
HFF-300
HFF-314
HFA-305(Docket #78N-0031)
HFF-330
HFF-335(2)
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