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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RED LAKE EARTH IS SAFE

Recently there has been some information circulated where products with crystalline silica have been compared to Red Lake Earth which is made from amorphous silica. This comparison is not accurate.

Respiratory Reaction to Red Lake Earth

A respiratory reaction to Red Lake Earth is extremely unlikely for the following reasons:

- The granulation of Red Lake Earth is 99% within 50 microns and 500 microns, about the size of icing sugar, with most of the remaining 1% being over 40 microns. These particles are too large to be inhaled and remain in the lungs.

- Red Lake Earth is manufactured with amorphous silica not crystalline silica.

EPA states:

“Silica, amorphous, fumed (crystalline free) is composed of oxygen and silicon, the most abundant and second-most abundant elements in the earth’s crust, respectively. Silicon almost always occurs in combination with oxygen, and a number of naturally-occurring minerals (such as quartz) are pure, or nearly pure, silicon dioxide.”

“Thus, based on the very low toxicity of silica, amorphous, fumed (crystalline free), the Agency has determined that there is a reasonable certainty of no harm to the U.S. population, including infants and children, from aggregate exposure to residues of silica, amorphous, fumed (crystalline free) and that a tolerance is not necessary.”

In plainer language, there is no risk from amorphous silica.

- The materials in Red Lake Earth do not pose a hazard.
- Red Lake Earth is a naturally occurring blend of diatomaceous earth and montmorillonite clay. The EPA states: “Inert ingredients are all ingredients that are not active ingredients as defined in 40 CFR 153.125 and include, but are not limited to... clay and diatomaceous earth. EPA has exempted inert ingredients from the requirement of a tolerance based on the low toxicity of the individual inert ingredients.”

- The EPA referred to 4 studies on rats and rabbits, much smaller animals than horses, and found that there was no information that would indicate that amorphous silica was toxic. The tests covered ingestion, inhalation, dermal irritation and irritation to the eyes. The conclusions to the studies were that there were no toxicity concerns with amorphous silica.
- Absorbent Products Ltd. has had the same material tested at various universities and they have found that Red Lake Earth, or finer granulations, is beneficial to the animals and is safe to use. It is actually beneficial if ingested, and is approved for use in feeds at rates up to 2%.

Amorphous Silica is NOT a Hazard

- There are 2 types of silica, amorphous and crystalline. Red Lake Earth is manufactured with amorphous silica.
- The EPA...”concludes that there is a reasonable certainty of no harm from aggregate exposure to residues of silica, amorphous, fumed (crystalline free). Accordingly, EPA finds that exempting silica, amorphous, fumed (crystalline free) from the requirement of a tolerance will be safe.”, meaning that no harm will result from all dietary and other exposures.
- Crystalline silica is a controlled substance. OSHA has stated that it is related to only the size of particle that would remain in the lungs (respirable size particles) which is between 5 and 10 microns. (The particle size for Red Lake Earth is 99% within 50 microns and 500 microns, with most of the remaining 1% greater than 40 microns. These particles are too large to be inhaled and remain in the lungs.)
- According to OSHA, the types of employees who would be at risk from crystalline silica would include those involved in sand blasting, foundry work, and stone cutting where the employee is inhaling high concentrations of crystalline silica for prolonged periods (usually over 10 years) of a particle size that would remain in the lungs.
- Crystalline silica is used in adhesives, paints, cosmetics, soaps and glass. Normal beach sand is crystalline silica. It is not harmful, other than in very fine particles that remain in the lungs after being inhaled.

CFIA and OMRI Registrations

- CFIA has registered Red Lake Earth as a diatomite for use in feeds. CFIA would not grant a registration if it was harmful.
- The Organic Material Review Institute has approved the use of Red Lake Earth in Organic Production. OMRI would not grant approvals to a product that was not safe.
- Red Lake Earth is properly labeled and meets all labeling requirements.
- Red Lake Earth is made from FOOD GRADE diatomaceous earth.