



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration  
Washington DC 20204

MAY 19 1986

Mr. John C. Ruppel  
Market Development Manager  
Sohio Engineered Materials Company  
Structural Ceramics Division  
P.O. Box 1054  
Niagara Falls, New York 14302

Dear Mr. Ruppel:

This is in response to your April 1, 1986 letter concerning approval for the use of Hexoloy<sup>TM</sup>, a sintered alpha silicon carbide, for use in food handling equipment. As described in your letter, this material is used in a wide range of applications including mechanical seals, bearings, valve trim, high temperature probes, ballistic armor and computer drive components. You further indicated that Hexoloy<sup>TM</sup> is used in seals which pump a variety of fluids and slurries.

We would expect that when Hexoloy<sup>TM</sup> is used in food contact applications under repeat use conditions that there would be only minimal migration and wear of the alpha silicon carbide to food because of the impervious and long wearing nature of this material.

Therefore, it is our opinion that your use of Hexoloy<sup>TM</sup> in food handling equipment would not represent a food additive situation.

Sincerely yours,

Gerard L. McCowin  
Director  
Division of Food and Color Additives  
Center for Food Safety  
and Applied Nutrition

