

**TESTIMONY OF EDUARDO DE LA FUENTE
OF AZTECA MILLING
BEFORE THE U.S INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 15, 2011**

***Purified Carboxymethylcellulose from Finland, Mexico, the Netherlands and
Sweden; Inv. Nos 731-TA-1084-1087 (Review)***

Good afternoon, my name is Eduardo de la Fuente and I am in charge of quality assurance for Azteca Milling, LP and I'm based in Edinburg Texas. I have been with the company since 1991. Azteca has 6 U.S. plants in Texas, Kentucky, Indiana and California employing approximately 800 employees. Gruma, our parent company, also has 18 plants in Mexico. The company's sole business is the production of corn flour for industrial and retail customers. The biggest segment of our business is corn flour for use in the production of "table tortillas." By "table tortillas", I mean the soft tortillas that can be folded. This is the type of flour for which we purchase CMC.

Azteca's Mexican facilities have been purchasing CMC from Amtex since the late 1970s and when Azteca opened its first U.S. plant in 1982, it naturally turned to Amtex to supply its U.S. operations as well. In 2000, we switched to Aqualon for most of our CMC supplies. However, quality issues forced us to switch back as Azteca began receiving complaints from customers that the tortillas made from our flour were hardening and would crack when folded. After researching the problem, we concluded that the CMC being supplied by Aqualon

was at fault. We approached Aqualon in hopes of working with them to resolve the problem. However, the company refused to work with us to determine how its CMC was at fault and never worked with us to reach a solution to the problem. We had no choice but to stop buying CMC from Aqualon the same year. Ultimately, the fact that Aqualon's product was at fault was confirmed as the problem disappeared once we switched back to using CMC from Amtex. As a result of this experience Azteca has not purchased CMC from Aqualon since that time and will not purchase CMC from Aqualon under any foreseeable circumstances. We simply do not see them as a reliable supplier given the quality issues with their product, with regard to its application in tortilla flour, and their poor customer service.

We also purchased CMC from Kelco's plant in Holland before it was destroyed, as confirmed by our questionnaire response. We have never purchased CMC from Finland or Sweden. We currently purchase CMC from Amtex in Mexico and from Dow in Germany. We have not had quality or technical support issues with either supplier. Amtex has always supplied us with a quality product and has worked with us to develop new formulations in order to make our product better. They supply CMC of consistent quality and provide excellent customer service.

Thank you for your time, I will be happy to answer any questions.