

Questions & Answers from the View-Master Public Meeting Held on January 28, 2003



Original release date: April 2, 2003. Revised Sept. 16, 2003.

This document contains responses to questions that were gathered at the public meeting that Oregon DHS held with former View-Master workers and concerned citizens on January 28, 2003, at the Elmonica School in Beaverton.

To develop answers, these questions were referred to several different agencies, including the Office of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology of Oregon DHS, the Office of Environmental Services and Consultation of Oregon DHS, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Drinking Water Program, the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Ombudsman's Office for Injured Workers in the Department of Consumer and Business Services, as well as the Mattel Corporation.

The responses were developed to the best of our knowledge at the present time. This document may be updated in the future if we receive new information.

Section IV. Questions/Comments about the Meeting Format

Q: Why can't there be a seminar or workshop for the public to ask questions and get answers as a group?

It may be possible at a subsequent, smaller meeting to have a seminar-style or panel presentation, but with the large number of people who attended the Jan 28 meeting, it would not have been possible to hold a Q&A meeting because there would not have been enough time to answer all the questions.

In order to respond to all the questions that were gathered at the public meeting on January 28, a number of agencies were consulted, including the Office of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology of Oregon DHS, the Office of Environmental Services and Consultation of Oregon DHS, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Drinking Water Program, the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Ombudsman's Office for Injured Workers in the Department of Consumer and Business Services, as well as Mattel Corporation. The process of consulting a variety of sources and compiling the answers into this document took several weeks. Clearly it would not have been possible to completely address all these questions during a two-hour meeting.

Q: There was too large a crowd.

We contacted several different places to hold the meeting, including larger community centers and hotel conference rooms. The Elmonica School in Beaverton was the only venue that was available for both sessions on January 28, for a fee that was affordable for the state.

More than 300 people attended the public availability sessions, and the Elmonica School multi-purpose room was filled at each session, which indicates of the high degree of interest that this issue has for former workers and community members. In the future we will try to hold the meetings in larger venues, or consider scheduling additional sessions.

Q: After the session broke to the individual tables it was chaos and it appeared that many people left.

As people made their way from their seats to the tables where they wanted to have their questions addressed, there was indeed a great deal of noise and distraction. Some people deliberately went outside to have meetings of their own outside, and to view the memorial. From the feedback that we received on evaluation forms, the majority of people (78% of respondents) felt that the information was presented in a way that was helpful and informative.

Q: Is there going to be another meeting in any other part of the city?

Although DHS will not be holding any other large meetings in the near future, DHS will consider other possible locations when planning for future meetings. The citizen advisory group (CAG) will hold its first meeting at the Portland State Office Building, and CAG members will decide where future CAG meetings should be held.

Q: For future meetings, what media sources will be used to notify people in other parts of town?

We plan to use the same venues and media sources in future meetings that we used for this one. Notification of this meeting went out to all print media, including large newspapers, local neighborhood newspapers, as well as cultural newspapers. Notices also went out to radio stations and cable television. Also, the television stations received the notification.

Q: Are materials from the meeting available in other languages?

We had limited translation services at the meeting in Spanish and Vietnamese. If translation is needed for other languages, this can be made available upon request.

Q: Who paid for the speakers to be at the Jan 28 meeting?

There was no payment for any of the speakers to attend. The speakers included representatives from state and other local agencies, as well as federal employees who flew in from either Seattle or Atlanta, Georgia. All of these government workers were there as part of their own job. No special payments were allotted to cover either their travel costs or their per diem.