

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 VII. Community Groups

Q: What about a support group for former workers?

Support groups are often times formed by hospitals or medical groups around a particular disease or other condition that can bring people together who are experiencing similar concerns or symptoms to that they can provide help for each other or know what to expect. It would be a great idea for people to consider working through one or the other community groups that already exist to reach out to former View-Master plant workers, such as Victims of TCE Exposure (V.O.T.E.), Environmental Justice Action Group (EJAG), or Oregon Center for Environmental Health (OCEH). From the perspective of DHS, we are planning to assist in the formation of a community advisory group that would work with Oregon DHS to provide insights about the plant's work environment, and input in developing the health study.

Below is the contact information for the advocacy groups VOTE, OCEH, and EJAG:

VOTE: phone 1-800-305-3133, fax 959-564-1804, e-mail TCEin3D@yahoo.com.

OCEH: phone 503-233-1510, fax 503-233-1528, 516 SE Morrison, Suite 300, Portland OR 97214, e-mail info@oregon-health.org

EJAG: phone 503-283-6397, P.O. Box 11635, Portland OR, 97211

Q: Regarding the Advisory Group, who comprises this group?

We are in the planning stages to assist the formation of the Citizen Advisory Group (CAG), and in the coming weeks DHS will be contacting people who have expressed an interest in joining the CAG. The primary members of the CAG will be made up of former workers and others who they feel would help the group function. The purpose of the group will be to keep former workers and the community informed about our progress, allow former workers to share information with us. Specifically, we hope to gather input that will help DHS develop and refine the appropriate methods for the health study.