

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



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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 IX. Health Care, Insurance, and Financial Compensation

***Q: If I need to see a doctor, who will pay for it? Is there health care provided if you have a problem? Is there a fund to treat former employees who have contracted a form of cancer? I have a cyst on my liver and have been told I need a CAT scan, who pays for this?***

The Oregon Health Plan is the standard Medicaid agency and mechanism for providing health care insurance for Oregonians who qualify. To receive an OHP application packet, call (1-800) 359-9517 or TTY: (1-800) 621-5260. Other than the Oregon Health Plan, there is no state agency or state fund that has resources to provide access or insurance for medical coverage. Unfortunately there is no mechanism in place where state or federal funds can be provided to cover the costs of health care for potential victims from either occupational or environmental contamination.

***Q: What are our rights as humans who were poisoned?***

Former workers should contact the Ombudsman's Office for Injured Workers in the Department of Consumer and Business Services to learn their rights for filing worker compensation claims. The Ombudsman can be contacted 1-800-927-1271 or (503) 378-3351 in Salem. The address is 350 Winter Street, NE, Room 160, Salem OR 97301.

***Q: Have any class action lawsuits been filed?***

Oregon DHS does not know of any class action lawsuits that have been filed.

***Q: What claims have been recorded in Worker's Comp?***

We were told by a representative of Mattel Corporation that through February 2003, up to 30 TCE related workers' compensation claims had been filed by previous employees. To date, no claims have been accepted as either medical only or disability claims.

***Q: Will Mattel stop giving company health exams, and why?***

Mattel announced that company-paid Medical Screening will cease on 12/31/03. According to Mattel, the decision to end the program was based upon declining participation in the Medical Screening Program.

G-1 Holdings, Inc., now the parent company of Sawyer's and GAF, informed Mattel in December 2002 that they were immediately stopping Medical Screening for former Sawyer's and GAF employees. We don't know why G-1 holdings made this decision. Former workers who wish to inquire further may contact G1-Holdings by phone at (973) 628-4126, by e-mail at [jcalkin@gaf.com](mailto:jcalkin@gaf.com), or by mail at G-1 Holdings Inc., 1361 Alps Road, Wayne NJ, 07470.

***Q: Is it a coincidence that screening was stopped when the health consultation report was released?***

According to Mattel, the decision to phase out the screening exam program was made in December 2002, prior to the release of the Health Consultation Report. These two events were unrelated to each other.

***Q: Where can I go for a physical exam or to get tested? Can I use my own physician for the screening exam and be reimbursed?***

According to Mattel, former workers of Mattel or Mattel's subsidiaries and their eligible children can go to any doctor of their choice to receive the medical screening exam. Mattel also provides a list of doctors experienced in industrial medicine if you want to see a specialist or if you do not have a doctor. Former employees should contact Mattel at (503) 293-8466 for Medical Screening packet prior to scheduling the exam, noting that the Medical Screening will cease on 12/31/03.

***Q: What does the health screening comprise? Can health forms be given to us to take to our doctors with the questions pertaining to our exposure?***

According to Mattel, the adult Medical Screening Exam includes a form to be completed by the patient before giving it to the doctor, so that the doctor has a medical history and information about the patient's TCE exposure to help guide the exam. The protocol then includes a general physical exam, a urinalysis and blood profile tests. In some cases, the doctor may also decide to include a chest x-ray.

The children's Medical Screening Exam includes a form, to be completed by the adult, so that the doctor has a medical history to help guide the exam. The protocol then includes an analysis of motor, sensory, communication, social, cognitive and adaptive skills (based upon age), a general exam, a urinalysis, blood profile tests, and EKG. In some cases, the doctor may also decide to include a chest x-ray.

For more information or to obtain materials for the Medical Screening Exam, please contact Mattel at (503) 293-8466.

***Q: Where can people from GAF/Sawyers go for testing?***

Former GAF/Sawyers workers may visit their own doctor and determine together what tests would be appropriate. If they are uninsured, they may be eligible for insurance coverage under the Oregon Health Plan. To receive an OHP application packet, call (1-800) 359-9517 or TTY: (1-800) 621-5260.

***Q: Why would Mattel pay full cost of a medical screening only if given by one of their four chosen doctors, instead of reimbursing a physician of my choice and covering only \$250 towards a full medical screening (as opposed to just blood & urine)?***

According to Mattel, “Mattel will cover more than \$250 for adults, or more than \$550 for eligible children, if the tests are those described in the protocol for the medical screening exam, and if the doctor gets prior approval from Mattel for the additional costs. Mattel employees should contact Mattel at (503) 293-8466 for Medical Screening instructions prior to the actual exam. Mattel employees and eligible children can go to any doctor of their choice. Mattel also includes a list of doctors experienced in industrial medicine if it desired to see a specialist or if they don’t already have a doctor.”

***Q: How can we make Mattel keep paying for the health screenings until we know the long-term effects?***

DHS unfortunately does not have the answer to this question. We suggest that you direct further inquires or suggestions to Mattel by calling (503) 293-7343 or (503) 293-8466.