

# **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 XIII. Past Levels of TCE

***Q: What was the TCE level in 1970, when TCE was still being dumped? When did contamination occur?***

It is not known what past levels of TCE were in the View-Master supply well. The View-Master supply well was not tested for TCE prior to 1998. ODHS and ATSDR are planning an environmental exposure assessment to help determine when the contamination first occurred, and what concentrations of TCE there may have been in the past.

***Q: How much TCE would need to be in the water before you could taste or smell it?***

Most people can begin to smell TCE in air when there are around 100 parts of TCE per million parts of air. There is no data on the thresholds for the taste or odor of TCE in water.

***Q: Why was the water tested in 1998? When was TCE discovered?***

The water was tested in March 1998 as part of a due diligence investigation for the benefit of a potential site developer. The site developer contracted with an environmental consulting firm to conduct a site assessment of the View-Master facility.

***Q: Where was the TCE dumped, are those areas being tested?*** (Landau report)

An extensive environmental investigation tested air, soil, and water at various locations and depths. The investigation identified four primary source areas, including two areas where disposal of degreaser sludge occurred. The four primary source areas were the former septic tank and drain field, the former paint shop and degreaser area, (a sludge disposal area at the east end of Parcel 3, and the sludge disposal and burn area on the southwest corner of Parcel 3). For further inquiries, please contact Oregon DEQ at (503) 229-6662.