

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 VI. Public Trust

Q: Why are we looking at the situation differently now than we were in the past?

From the perspective of DHS, we have not changed our approach. We believe that this is a real, potential public health risk that workers could be facing, and our goal is to gather information and make that information available to workers. What has changed is that we have obtained new information about the causes of death among former View-Master workers, and we're hoping that this new information will help move us forward to be able to carry out the complete health interview study.

Q: Is information being withheld?

Although DHS cannot disclose confidential information, DHS provides aggregated information to former workers as soon as it becomes available. As a recent example, DHS completed the analysis of the death data shortly before holding the public meeting in January. Although this information was reviewed by the funding agency (ATSDR) prior to public release, the report was immediately released to the public after review.

The reason that Oregon DHS is conducting this investigation is to identify information that would help former View-Master workers to know what their health risks are, if any. In order to protect confidentiality, we can share only information that is aggregated, as opposed to sharing information about any individual persons.