

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 XIV. Factory Water Supply & Maintenance

Q: Who determined, or how was it determined, that the well casing was cracked or broken?

A former employee recalled this incident at the public meeting. We asked Mattel for comment. According to Mattel, there is no existing documentation about a cracked or broken well casing. Mattel told us, “historically, the Maintenance Department would investigate and/or correct any type of equipment questions or failure, including the well casing. If special skills were needed to complete a repair it would have been common to retain other experienced or licensed vendors.”

Q: When did the plant go to city water?

Factory records indicate that in 1956, Sawyer's joined the Progress Water District for fire control and prevention purposes. Water lines were installed that supplied the facility sprinkler system, some hydrants, and as a backup water supply to the water tower.

Q: Why were reports of the drinking water “burning” answered that the water was being tested?

DHS did not receive reports or complaints about the drinking water prior to the discovery of TCE. DHS asked Mattel for comment in response to this question. Mattel told us, “Maintenance Department employees report that the well water was regularly tested for bacteria.” For further inquiries, please contact Mattel at (503) 293-7343.