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## Citing liability concerns, Franklin won't broadcast creek cleanup meeting

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**FRANKLIN** — Franklin officials say they won't broadcast a public meeting held last week about the cleanup of chemicals in Liberty Creek because of statements made by one of the meeting's participants.

"There were some things said at that meeting by a citizen that was, in our opinion, unfounded and not truthful," Franklin Mayor John Schroer said.

Schroer said he worried about "liability issues" stemming from comments made by Battle Ground Academy parent Elizabeth Coker, who told officials at the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation about her daughter's respiratory condition and said BGA students regularly complain of a chemical smell in the school's playground and classrooms near the creek.

"Everything I said was the truth," Coker said Wednesday. "I don't understand anything they could possibly have a problem with. I don't think denying the public access to the entire hearing is fair to the public."

The city regularly rebroadcasts meetings on its public-access channel.

The chemicals toluene, acetone and benzene, among others, have been found in the creek, the Harpeth River and in the Daniels Drive neighborhood located between the creek and the Fort Granger Drive company.

Egyptian Lacquer Manufacturing Co. Inc. has claimed responsibility for the pollution and is trying to get state approval for its cleanup plan.

Coker, 48, who lives in Rutherford County, said she wanted officials to track any ill health-effects on students, teachers and residents of Daniels Drive, as well complaints from former teachers about foul smells.

She said she had earlier brought her concerns to officials at Battle Ground Academy, a private school with about 980 students.

BGA spokeswoman Susan Minor said the school has "regularly communicated" with its parents and others about the pollution and has installed air-monitoring equipment.

"Thankfully, all air monitoring and water testing that has been done has repeatedly shown that chemicals detected on our campus do not begin to reach levels that could be harmful or cause any illnesses," Minor said in a prepared statement.

The school has no qualms with the city broadcasting the meeting, according to Minor.

"At any public meeting people can say things that aren't factual," Schroer said. "However, we don't have an obligation to rebroadcast that."

