

Moab Tailings Project Steering Committee Meeting

April 27 2017, 3:00pm

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING

Grand County Public Library

257 East Center

Moab, Utah 84532

The following individuals were present:

Committee Members:

Mary McGann, Chair and County Council Member
Rani Derasary, Moab City Council
Karen Garthwait, National Park Service, Southeast Utah Group
Mary Hofhine, Grand County Community Development
Joette Langanese, At-Large Stakeholder
Dave Sakrison, Mayor, City of Moab
Katie Stevens, BLM – Moab Field Office
Kelly Thornton, Utah Division of Workforce Services
Callie Tranter, Moab Area Travel Council
Lee Shenton, County UMTRA Liaison (non-voting staff for MTPSC)

Moab UMTRA:

John Sattler (DOE, Acting Federal Project Director), Joe Ritchey (S&K Logistics Services, TAC Senior Program Manager), Ed Skintik (DOE, Environmental Management Consolidated Business Center), Wendee Ryan (S&K Logistics Services, Public Affairs Manager)

Citizens:

Michael Adkison (citizen), Rudy Herndon (Moab Sun News), Molly Marcello (Moab Times Independent)

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chair Mary McGann.
2. Review of Minutes of January 24, 2017 Meeting – Rani moved (Katie second) to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Project Status – John Sattler reviewed DOE management changes at the Moab UMTRA and his previous experience as a DOE federal project director, noting that it might take several months to replace all of the local DOE employees. John reported that 54% of the tailings has been removed, shipping containers are being re-conditioned and excavation is underway on Phase 3b of the disposal cell. John mentioned that movement of mill debris has been temporarily suspended but that is not on the critical scheduling path. He stated that active ground water remediation resumed in March and the latest projection for peak flow in the Colorado River this spring is just over thirty thousand cfs vs the forty-eight thousand cfs peak that caused significant flooding in 2011. John described the DOE funding planning process. The Moab UMTRA team currently assumes funding will continue for FY18 at the current level of about \$35 million per year. If the Moab UMTRA is allocated more than that, John said they would intend to catch up on placement of final cover at the disposal cell. The current Technical Assistance Contract expires in June and the bids for the next five years are currently being evaluated. Responding to a question from Kelly, John is not aware of any intent to further reduce either contract or DOE employees for Moab UMTRA.

Citizen Michael Adkison asked for and was granted permission to address the committee. He explained that, based on his experience as a miner, the Moab UMTRA cost to move tailings is about eight times typical costs in the mining industry. He reported that he has two FOIA requests pending to disclose the Moab UMTRA cost structure for shipping tailings.

4. Replacing Lost Funding – Chair McGann reported the State of Utah Legislature passed in February a “Resolution to Require the U.S. Department of Energy to Allocate Adequate Funding to Complete the Moab UMTRA Remediation Project by 2025.” She stated that Rani, Joette and her are making plans to bring this issue to the Utah congressional delegation. Mayor Dave noted that Congress can no longer earmark funds for a particular project so our group needs to approach Secretary of Energy Perry.
5. Stakeholder Updates – No specific Stakeholder updates were offered.
6. Air Monitoring and Activities – Lee presented charts of environmental monitoring results for 2016, noting an apparent uptick in radioparticulates late in the year that was mostly an artifact of starting to track six radionuclides instead of four. The trend to higher wintertime radon peaks continued at both sites but levels were still well below the maximum allowable. There was no indication of significant changes in trends for gamma, radon or radioparticulate levels at the most sensitive offsite locations, which continue well below their respective guidelines.
7. Future Agenda Items – Lee suggested updates on the project progress and funding, and a review of air monitoring results. Joette requested a five-year update from UDOH on the epidemiological study of 2012.
8. Meeting was adjourned by consensus at 4:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lee Shenton, Grand County UMTRA Liaison