

Moab Tailings Project Steering Committee Meeting

July 28, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING

Held Virtually on Zoom

Council Chambers, Grand County Courthouse

125 East Center

Moab, Utah 84532

The following individuals were present:

Committee Members:

Mary McGann, Committee Chair, Grand County Council

Rick Bailey, Grand County Office of Emergency Management

Elaine Gizler, Moab Area Travel Council

Kelly Thornton, Department of Workforce Services

Amy Tendick, National Park Service

Nicollee Gaddis-Wyatt, Bureau of Land Management

Rani Derasary, Moab City

Phil Goble, Utah Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control

Joette Langianese, Grand County representative resident

Anthony (Tony) Mancuso, Utah Forestry, Fire and State Lands

Jonathan Dutrow, Southeast Utah Health Department

Evan Tyrell, Solid Waste Management Special Service District # 1

Staff Russ von Koch, Grand County UMTRA Liaison (non-voting staff for MTPSC)

Moab UMTRA:

Russell McCallister, DOE Federal Cleanup Director

Sasha Robertson, DOE Deputy Federal Cleanup Director

Barbara Michel, S&K Logistics, Administrative Assistant, Technical Assistance Contract

Jeff Austin, DOE Contracting Officer's Representative / Project Manager

Chris Pulskamp, DOE Project Engineer

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Per Resolution 3198 (2020) at least seven committee members were present to constitute a quorum.

2. Introductions

The Chair asked those present via Zoom or otherwise to introduce themselves: Those attending did so and are listed above.

3. Review of Minutes from the January 28, 2020 Meeting

Liaison's note: The January minutes would normally have been considered at the May 28, 2020 MTPSC meeting. The May meeting was cancelled due to Covid-19.

The Chair asked the members if they had any corrections to the minutes. The following revision was made:

Evan Tyrrell asked that his title be changed (for the period when he worked as a contractor for the DOE's Office of Legacy Management on the Mexican Hat Project) from "site manager to "site lead".

Tony Mancuso moved and Joette Langianese seconded a motion to approve the minutes as revised to include Evan's title correction. The motion passed unanimously and the revision was made in the first paragraph of page two.

4. Citizens to be Heard (via Zoom)

The Chair asked if any citizens would like to speak. No citizens requested to be heard.

5. Report on Grand County / Moab City Washington DC Trip

The Chair introduced this topic. Rani began by summarizing that she, Mary, and Joette met with elected members of Congress and/or their staff members from Utah, California, Nevada, and Arizona with the intent of maintaining their support for the Moab UMTRA Project. During their three days in Washington (Feb 25-27) they participated in a total of 20 meetings. They did have the opportunity to meet with Ike White at the DOE's Office of Environmental Management. Joette noted that all of the meetings were very positive. Mary mentioned that they showed a graphic that portrayed how the 2019 and 2020 funding increase had doubled the number of tons moved. Rani related that for the first time that the Project was listed in the President's budget as an independent request and that the administration's request was for \$47 million. Mary suggested consideration of supporting a request for stimulus funds should they be made available.

6. Moab UMTRA Project Update

The Chair recognized Federal Cleanup Director Russell McCallister.

Russell provided an overview of work and progress at the Moab site. He began by noting that the Project was well positioned to continue operations during the Covid-19 pandemic. He praised the crew for their Covid-19 prevention efforts.

Russell reported that 915,000 tons had been shipped in the past 12 months and a total of approximately 10.7 million tons of tailings have been transported to Crescent Junction by the Project. The tonnage moved is about 67.3 % of the estimated total of 16 million tons of tailings deposited at the Moab site. He stated that the Project expected to hit the 11 million ton milestone for calendar year by late October or early November. Russell mentioned that in August the Project would begin to expand the capacity of the Crescent Junction disposal cell to accommodate more tailings by excavating additional cell space. The Project has also now worked over 1,400 days without a lost time work incident.

The Project is continuing work towards gaining approval for use of an evapotranspiration type cover for use at the Crescent Junction disposal cell. The new Project Engineer, Chris Pulskamp, has been assigned to work on the cover design process and is coordinating with the DOE's Office of Legacy Management. The Project has hired an engineer to develop the 30% design for submittal to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The goal is to install a better cover at reduced cost.

Russell also reported that due to the low flow of the Colorado River this year, the Project had to dig out their inlet channel to maintain access to water needed by the Project and that it may be necessary to use an auxiliary pump. He then noted that the Project has completed a comprehensive review of their air monitoring network to get the best coverage. Additionally, the construction of a new home in Crescent Junction may require adjustment in reporting the impact upon the maximally exposed individual.

Russell observed that the Project will likely be operating under a continuing resolution after the end of the current fiscal year.

Joette Langianese asked about the response to the health department's requirement to wear masks. Russell reported that the Project is following state guidance and that they had required mask use if social distancing was not possible at both the Moab and Crescent Junction sites before the county-wide order. He described other protection methods implemented including installation of foot operated doors in restrooms and removal of chairs in the common rooms to facilitate social distancing. He said the staff is working hard to comply and that so far no employees have tested positive for Covid-19.

7. Presentation of Moab UMTRA Project Annual Statement of Continued Compliance

The Chair recognized Russell McCallister to make the presentation.

a. Summary of Work Completed by the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project Pursuant to the Approved CUP in the past 12 Months

Russell summarized the Project's compliance with Grand County's Conditional Use Permit for the Moab UMTRA Project. Highlights include that the Project moved about 915,000 tons of tailings to Crescent Junction during the past 12 month reporting period. To date, the Project has shipped 10.76 million tons representing about 67.3% of the total estimated tonnage. The project also moved more than 58,700 tons of debris during the past 12 months. All shipments were by rail. To help provide the equipment needed to maintain operations, the Project purchased 51 new containers, 13 new container lids, a Klein water tank for use at the Moab site, a new water truck for use at Crescent Junction and two service trucks. He noted it is important to have the equipment needed to continue production without excess expense.

Russell introduced Chris Pulskamp, DOE Project Engineer, who will be working mostly on Crescent Junction projects. He then introduced Jeff Austin, DOE Management Analyst / Contracting Officer's Representative, who in addition to his regular contract related duties, will be working with a team on closure related strategies in cooperation with the DOE Office of Legacy Management among other tasks. Russell then discussed the need to start working through what the mill site could look like when the Office of Environmental Management completes its work.

The Project continued to operate following Covid-19 precautions and regularly sent four trains of tailings to Crescent Junction weekly. Excavation, conditioning, loading, unloading, tailings placement, and maintenance work continued throughout the past 12 months. The Project lost a couple of shipping days when a Union Pacific non-tailings railcar left the track.

More than nine million gallons of groundwater were extracted along with 19,781 pounds of ammonia and 193 pounds of uranium. More than 7.7 million gallons of fresh water were injected to create a hydraulic barrier between the tailings pile and the Colorado River. Revegetation work in off-pile areas continued to help cultivate a more natural environment on site. The Project moved silt from the freshwater pond river intake to an area with little vegetation to help spur plant growth and transplanted plants from a National Park Service construction site.

At Crescent Junction, Phase 3c cell expansion is projected to begin in August to provide disposal space for the next several years. The Project is working on an evapotranspiration cell cover design for future use at Crescent Junction. The cover, which is expected to improve performance and reduce construction costs, would be composed of rock and soil topped with vegetation.

b. Number of Workers Employed on Site in the Past Year and Projection for the Coming Year

As of July 2020, the Project employed 137 people. Staffing will continue to reflect the shipping schedule.

c. The Work Plan for the Coming 12 Months Including Any Modifications, Additions, and Deletions

For the next 12 months, the Project plans to continue excavating, conditioning, and shipping four trains per week through the end of FY 20 on September 30, 2020. Shipping afterwards will depend on funding authorized for FY21. The Project is working on becoming more efficient and has already leased two additional railcars with the intent to have two additional railcars per train. Two additional cars per train would support shipment of eight additional containers per train.

Placement of tailings and interim cover will continue at Crescent Junction for the foreseeable future. The planned additional cell excavation at Crescent Junction is expected to remove about one million cubic yards of material to create space for tailings placement. Operation of the interim groundwater remedial action system will continue.

d. Air and Water Quality Monitoring Reports and Support Materials Sufficient to Inform the Public Regarding Any Health Risks Associated with the Project

The Project will continue preparation of Annual Site Environmental Reports to inform the public of site conditions, document compliance with environmental standards, and highlight significant programs and efforts. The Project will continue groundwater monitoring at more than 100 wells and surface locations and air monitoring at 36 stations.

Quarterly monitoring gamma and radioparticulate radiation from the Project document that public exposure did not exceed DOE public dose limits during the most recent fourth quarter period. Based on the available data, radon exposure to the maximally exposed individual was below the DOE limit. Employee radiological monitoring documents that the Project's as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) efforts have adequately protected its workers from radiological hazards by keeping the total effective dose well below the DOE administrative control level.

The Project continued active groundwater sampling and remediation to protect suitable (*fish*) habitat areas adjacent to the site by monitoring ammonia and uranium mass and taking action via injection of fresh water. Additionally in September of 2019, diversion of surface water took place when water samples indicated the need for action.

Tony Mancuso commended the Project on the volume of groundwater treated. Evan Tyrrell asked if the 2019 Annual Site Environmental Report was available and was informed by Sasha Robertson that it should be available by the end of September.

8. Consideration of Recommending the Moab UMTRA Project Annual Statement of Continued Compliance for approval to the Grand County Council.

The Chair opened this topic for discussion and asked for a motion.

Kelly Thornton moved that the MTPSC recommend that the Grand County Council approve the Project's Annual Statement of Continued Compliance. Joette seconded the motion. Evan Tyrrell asked about the requirement to provide a work plan for the next 12 months. Russ von Koch noted that the Annual Report includes a description of the work plan. Russell explained that the quarterly air quality reports contain more detail and offered to provide more information to Evan. Barbara Michel directed Evan to the surface water and groundwater reports section of the Project's webpage. Russ von Koch asked Joette about the intent of the proposed work plan in the county's conditional use permit. Joette explained that the intent was to get a general overview for the public in an annual letter as Russell McCallister just presented. Russell McCallister suggested that Evan could ask him or Russ von Koch more detail whenever he had questions.

Following discussion, the Chair called for a vote to approve the Annual Statement of Compliance. The motion was approved as presented with eleven in favor and Evan Tyrrell voting against the motion.

9. Air Monitoring and Liaison Activities

The Chair Recognized the UMTRA Liaison, Russ von Koch, who presented the liaison's status update. Russ quickly reviewed the standard update PowerPoint slides noting that Russell McCallister had already covered many of the items portrayed in the slides during his two presentations. Reviewing the four quarter moving averages for radon, gamma, and particulate radiation, Russ noted that of the 27 total measurements two were up, 15 were down, and 10 were the same as the prior quarter's report. Joette Langianese asked Russ which two were up. Russ did not recall which were up but noted he would provide the information. *Liaison's note: the Moab MEI Gamma was up 1 percentage point to 33 percent of allowable impact and the Thompson Gamma was up 2 percentage points to 33 percent of allowable impact.*

Russ reviewed the long term annual progress towards transporting the tailings from the Moab site to the Crescent Junction disposal cell and noted that the tonnage moved in June (87,000 tons) was the highest since September 2014.

Russ extended the standard UMTRA Status PowerPoint to include a set of photos of the Moab UMTRA Project as seen from the rim of Poison Spider Mesa. Russ explained that he took the photos in April in anticipation of showing them at the May MTPSC meeting. He noted that hiking to viewpoints of the Project area from the mesa can provide "aerial" views between contracted aerial photography flights.

10. Stakeholder Updates

The Chair asked the members to present any stakeholder updates to the committee. No updates were offered.

11. Future Agenda Items

The Chair asked the members if they had any additional items to add to the committee's normal agenda for the next meeting. Joette suggested that, as Russell McCallister recommended, the committee should address the future of the site as the Project is moving towards completion. She noted that this topic has been discussed with our Congressional representatives. Mary McGann mentioned the site futures plan and the committee can look at that and also talk about who will be the long term manager of the site. Russ von Koch offered to begin the discussion by re-presenting the 2018 Site Futures Update to the committee. Mary said that could be done at the next meeting. Joette mentioned that the committee needs to learn more about the site transfer process through discussion with the DOE. Joette noted that the committee probably needs to keep working with our Congressional representatives.

12. Future Meeting Dates

The Chair reminded the members of the remaining scheduled meeting date for 2020 on October 27 from 3:00 to 5 p.m.

13. Adjourn

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Russ von Koch, Grand County UMTRA Liaison

Approved

Date


Mary McGann, MTPSC Chairperson


12/3/2020