

Moab Tailings Project Steering Committee Meeting
October 23, 2018, 3:00pm
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
PUBLIC MEETING
Grand County Council Chambers
125 East Center
Moab, Utah 84532

The following individuals were present:

Committee Members:

Mary McGann, Grand County Council (MTPSC Chair)
Rani Derasary, Moab City Council
Elaine Gizler, Moab Area Travel Council
Joette Langianese, At-Large Stakeholder
Lance Porter, Bureau of Land Management
Amy Tendick, National Park Service
Dana van Horn, Grand Water & Sewer Service Agency

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

Moab UMTRA Project:

Russell McCallister (DOE, Federal Cleanup Director), Joe Ritchey (S&K Logistics, Senior Program Manager), Honora Thompson (Pro2Serve, Public Affairs Manager)

Citizens:

Michael Adkison, Lee Shenton, and Susan Shenton

Media: Anthony Militano, Moab Times-Independent

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Chair Mary McGann. Per Resolution 2992, five or more committee members were present to constitute a quorum.
2. Introductions – Chair McGann asked those present to introduce themselves.
3. Review of Minutes from the July 31, 2018 Meeting – Dana moved to approve the minutes as presented. Lance seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion was passed with seven in favor. Opposed 0 Abstained 0
4. Moab UMTRA Project Status – Federal Cleanup Director Russell McCallister presented an overview of the Moab UMTRA Project’s progress and status. After recognizing the committee’s support for completion of the project, he made the following points:

About 477,000 tons of tailings were shipped to the Crescent Junction Disposal Cell during FY 18 which was 107% of the projected goal for the year. About 57% of the estimated tonnage of tailings has been moved from the Moab Site to Crescent Junction.

The project has worked 780 days without a lost time injury.

Due to the low flow of the Colorado River, it was necessary to temporarily relocate the intake for the fresh water injection system until the river flow increased.

Active groundwater remediation is expected to continue through mid-November.

The Moab UMTRA Project injected fresh water into a side channel of the river to protect aquatic habitat water quality.

The project has started to study potential alternative final cover methods for the Crescent Junction Disposal Cell. An alternative design might result in better performance while freeing funds for other project remediation work. Nothing definitive yet. The project is coordinating with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and DOE Legacy Management.

With the additional funding for FY 19, the project is working towards increasing the number of tailings trains going to Crescent Junction from two trains per week to four. The Remedial Action Contractor (RAC) has been asked to submit a proposal for increasing the number of trains per week. The project will also complete additional maintenance to help assure smoother operations in the future as the number of shipments increase.

The project is considering the possibility of shipping some of the debris from the former mill buildings and equipment to the Crescent Junction Disposal Cell by truck. Shipping mill debris by truck may be safer (in comparison to shipping by rail container) as it could require less cutting up of debris by employees for placement in larger covered truck beds. Truck shipments of debris could also help speed overall shipping as it would be in addition to the rail shipments. Much of the mill debris has yet to be uncovered.

With the objective of improving shipping efficiency, the project is looking at utilizing heavier duty rail cars so that more tailings could be moved with each train. They are also evaluating the feasibility of operating procedures, such as indexing, that might result in longer trains.

The project is expecting to hire about ten additional employees to help support the increased movement of tailings from Moab to Crescent Junction.

Radon levels measured at the site are expected to decrease as new quarterly data is added to the moving one year average.

The 2017 Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER) is now publically available.

Anne White, the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management has stated that she is interested in completing projects and has asked for proposals from the projects that would facilitate completion.

Federal Cleanup Director McCallister concluded the DOE update section of the agenda by stating that the Moab UMTRA Project 2018 Supplemental Analysis for Remediation of the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings (Grand and San Juan Counties, Utah, Final Environmental Impact Statement) is still being reviewed internally and that it will be available to the public at the Grand County Public Library.

5. Discussion of Moab UMTRA Project FY 19 budget

The discussion covered the potential for additional work shifts to increase tailings shipments. Russell McCallister explained that due to safety concerns related to working at night, he prefers to pursue the types of efficiency options previously discussed or working more days per week before working a second shift. Following a discussion about the availability of the rail line for additional use, Michael Adkison reported that Rick York, the local Intrepid Potash mine manager, has expressed interest in working with the DOE and Union Pacific to obtain the best use of the line. Michael also stated that the Utah Department of Transportation traffic count for north US 191 shows the lowest daily vehicle use between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. which makes that period a good time for hauling material to the Crescent Junction Disposal Cell.

Joette asked if the project would share information from the RAC proposals for utilizing the additional funding with the steering committee. Russell McCallister responded positively.

Mary concluded the discussion by saying she was happy with the higher funding and was looking forward to speaking with Congressional and DOE officials about the community's interest in the project.

6. Site Futures Committee Report – Russ reported that the Grand County Council and the Moab City Council endorsed the 2018 Community Vision Update on August 7 and September 10 respectively.

Russ also noted that while the next scheduled community vision update is not due until 2023 that he will continue to track suggestions and ideas for future use of the site.

Russ informed the committee that the county's Ad hoc Transportation Committee is looking into the feasibility of future passenger rail service to Moab. The transportation committee is considering proposing a temporary Moab terminus north of Moab Canyon. Should a portion of the Moab UMTRA site be transferred to a local government entity following completion of remediation work, the Moab UMTRA Project's rail bench might be considered for a more permanent rail station as proposed by the Site Futures Committee. Russ has offered to present the SFC's recommendation to the Transit Committee.

7. Stakeholder Updates – Joette stated that it would be good to have a series of photos that depict changes at the site over time as the tailings are removed. Mary mentioned that Russ von Koch was taking names of city and county officials who would be interested in an on-site briefing and a tour of the Moab Project Site. Amy, Dana, Lance, Rani, and Elaine expressed interest in the site visit/ tour.

8. Air Monitoring and Liaison Activities – Russ presented the liaison's status update. He reviewed the long term annual progress towards transporting the tailings from the Moab Site to the Crescent Junction Disposal Cell and then discussed the data from the recent second quarter air quality report compared to the first quarter report.

Overall the air quality data was fairly similar except that the particulate data, as displayed in the liaison's report, is about ten points higher for each monitoring station. Russ explained that this is due to a change in the number of particles tracked (now measuring the previous four plus two additional) and the lack of an established background impact for the six total particles to deduct from the allowable impact. This reporting change applies to the particulate levels displayed for both Moab and Crescent Junction. The change does not imply any actual change in particulate radiation.

Russ also noted that the radon level reported from station 128 (near the south boundary of the site) has not yet come down as the second quarter of 2018 was similar to second quarter of 2017 that dropped out of the running four quarter average. He explained that station 128 is immediately adjacent to the site boundary and that station 127, which is about a half mile down SR 279 has a much lower reading. Both readings are within the guideline for radon exposure. The exposure goes to zero at the Moab Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Russ mentioned that the county has been working on extending the existing multi-year monitoring and liaison grant for an additional one year period.

9. Future Agenda Items – It was requested that DOE report on its utilization of the additional FY 19 funding.
10. 2019 Quarterly Meeting Dates – The committee agreed to the following dates for its 2018 quarterly meetings. January 22, April 23, July 23 and October 29. All dates are on a Tuesday with the first three being on the fourth Tuesday and the October date on the fifth Tuesday.
11. Joette moved that the meeting be adjourned and Rani seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 4:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s Russ von Koch, Grand County UMTRA Liaison