

# MOAB TAILINGS PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

Quarterly Meeting  
Held virtually on Zoom

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## MTPSC MINUTES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 3:00PM (MST)

### A. CALL TO ORDER (3:00PM)

The October 26, 2021 quarterly meeting of the Moab tailings Project Steering Committee was called to order at 3:02pm. The following committee members were in attendance:

Mary McGann (Grand County Commission), Jerry Pruitt (Department of Workforce Service), Rani Derasary (City of Moab), Joette Langianese (Grand County resident representative), Dana van Horn (Grand Water & Sewer Service Agency), Nicole Gaddis-Wyatt (Bureau of Land Management), Evan Tyrrell (Solid Waste Special Service District #1), Tony Mancuso (Utah Forestry, Fire and State Lands)

The following non-committee members were in attendance:

Matt Udsovitch (Department of Energy), Russell McCallister (Federal Cleanup Director – DOE), Nicole Gordon (Pro2Serve, Public Affairs Manager, Technical Assistance Contract), Stephanie Lein (Pro2Serve, Environmental Air Quality Technician, Technical Assistance Contract), Emily Arntsen (Moab Times-Independent), Liz Moran (Pro2Serve, Senior Environmental Specialist, Technical Assistance Contract), Christopher Pulskamp (Project Engineer - DOE), Luke Mattson (Pro2Serve, Moab UMTRA Project Field Manager, Technical Assistance Contract), Jessica Thacker (Grand County UMTRA Liaison/Technical Inspector).

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

### B. INTRODUCTIONS

### C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION: Tony Mancuso motioned to approve the draft minutes for the July 27, 2021. Rani Derasary seconded. All in favor – motion passes.**

### D. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

No comments were provided.

### E. MOAB UMTRA PROJECT UPDATE

Russell McCallister stated that on October 14<sup>th</sup>, the UMTRA Project had reached the 12-million-ton removal milestone and praised North Wind Portage for their innovative efforts plus the additional of more railcars on the bench. He stated that no lost-time injuries or accidents had occurred nor had there been any COVID-19 outbreaks due to proactive preventive efforts. Russell McCallister stated that due to severe drought conditions resulting in low levels for water intake, the Project was experiencing a higher concentration of ammonia. He announced that the RAC contract was currently under re-compete and stated that North Wind Portage had been awarded a two-month extension with the possibility of another two-month extension. Russell McCallister indicated he was hopeful for an end of year contract award and a smooth transition with the selected contractor. He also expressed appreciation to Mary McGann for her support and efforts to secure funding for the Project.

Russell McCallister stated they were hoping to increase tailings removal by 20% by utilizing more railcars and that they were continuing to work with Union Pacific. Union Pacific had expressed safety concerns about the derailling system. A brief discussion regarding the extended timeline for the contract re-bid ensued.

Joette Langianese inquired on how the reduced water levels and increased ammonia levels could potentially affect fish habitats and if the Project was doing anything to address this issue. Russell McCallister confirmed the Project was making efforts to ensure appropriate water levels were being maintained, but agreed that more consultation and evaluation was needed from Fish and Wildlife agencies. Joette Langianese pointed out the importance of the humpback chub's preservation. Russell McCallister expressed agreement and stated the Project was working on groundwater compliance for final closure and that the main driver was finding a suitable habitat. Tony Mancuso stated that the humpback chub had been downgraded to threatened and that the razorback was being considered for downlisting. He briefly explained the importance of finding a suitable habitat and expressed appreciation to the Department of Energy (DOE) for their efforts. Joette Langianese inquired about the timeline for initiating conversations in regards to the closure of the site. Russell McCallister responded that initial conversations had begun but stated that the delay of contract awarding had delayed the conversation. Joette Langianese informed Russell McCallister that the next edition of Real Estate would feature an article on the pile.

#### **F. UPDATE ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO AIR MONITORING NETWORK**

Russell McCallister reminded the Steering Committee that the DOE had presented proposed changes to the air monitoring network during the April meeting, indicating those changes would be more effective. He stated that the Project had wanted to give individuals and the public the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed changes. Stephanie Lein stated that relatively minor changes had occurred to the proposed changes since she presented during the January quarterly meeting. Russell McCallister reiterated the reasoning behind the proposed changes stating that some stations had only been placed in certain locations due to the accessibility of power.

**MOTION: Joette Langianese motioned to approve the changes to the air monitoring networks as presented by the Department of Energy. Rani Derasary seconded. All in favor – motion passes.**

#### **G. AIR MONITORING AND LIAISON ACTIVITIES STATUS UPDATE**

Jessica Thacker provided a detailed presentation regarding activities observed at the Project along with a summary of air monitoring data for both sites (Moab and Crescent Junction). She stated that she had continued to streamline the air monitoring to make it more accessible and easy to understand. The entire presentation can be viewed on the Grand County Moab UMTRA Project webpage or upon request from Jessica Thacker at [jthacker@grandcountyutah.net](mailto:jthacker@grandcountyutah.net)

#### **H. STAKEHOLDERS UPDATES**

#### **I. FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

Mary McGann asked present committee members on moving forward with in-person meetings or the consideration of hybrid meetings (Zoom combined with in-person gatherings). Dana von Horn voiced support for the continuation of Zoom meetings as they reduced the carbon footprint and were more convenient. Joette Langianese asked about lobbying for funding actions and Mary McGann stated that she had spoken with state representatives about resuming lobbying activities in the upcoming year. Joette Langianese inquired about the November 9<sup>th</sup> EM3 (DOE) site visit and who all would attend. Russell McCallister stated he would keep in touch while Mary McGann suggested that Tony Mancuso attended as well. Mary McGann suggested the possibility of another site tour in the spring and send out invitations at attend celebrations for the next million ton of tailings moved.

#### **J. ADJOURNMENT**

The MTPSC Quarterly meeting was adjourned at 3:53pm.

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*Mary McGann, MTPSC Chairperson*

