

Moab Tailings Project Steering Committee Meeting
October 27, 2020, 3:00 p.m.
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
PUBLIC MEETING
Held by Zoom
Commission Chambers, Grand County Courthouse
125 East Center
Moab, Utah 84532

The following individuals were present:

Committee Members:

Mary McGann, Committee Chair, Grand County Council
Elaine Gizler, Moab Area Travel Council
Mila Dunbar-Irwin, Grand County Planning and Community Development
Jerry Pruitt, Department of Workforce Services, designee for Kelly Thornton
Nicollee Gaddis-Wyatt, Bureau of Land Management
Rani Derasary, Moab City
Dana van Horn, Grand Water & Sewer Service Agency
Joette Langianese, Grand County representative resident
Anthony (Tony) Mancuso, Utah Forestry, Fire and State Lands

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

Moab UMTRA:

Russell McCallister (Federal Cleanup Director)
Sasha Robertson (Deputy Federal Cleanup Director)
Chris Pulskamp (Project Engineer)
Honora Thompson (Pro2Serve, Public Affairs Manager, Technical Assistance Contract)
Barbara Michel (SKLS, Staff Support Specialist, Technical Assistance Contract)

Citizens, Other Agency Representatives, and Media:

J. Parriott
Deborah Sigman

1. Call to Order – Chair

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

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

2. Introductions – Chair

The Chair asked those present to introduce themselves:

3. Review and consideration of minutes from the July 28, 2020 Meeting – Chair

The Chair asked the members about reviewing the minutes and reported an email from member Evan Tyrrell.

Evan asked the record show that at the July 28 meeting he should have abstained when voted against approval of the Moab UMTRA Project's Annual Statement of Continued Compliance with Grand County's conditional use permit. He noted he is a new committee member and did not yet have enough information and historical context to make a decision.

After discussion it was determined that the above statement would be added as part of the October 27, 2020 minutes for the record.

The Chair asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the July 28, 2020 meeting. As no suggestions were made, the Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Tony moved and Joette seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The minutes for the July 28, 2020 meeting were approved as submitted unanimously.

4. Citizens to Be Heard – Chair

The Chair asked if any citizens present via Zoom or the conference phone in commission chambers would like to speak. No citizens asked to speak.

5. Moab UMTRA Project Update – Russell McCallister, DOE Federal Cleanup Director

The Chair recognized Federal Cleanup Director Russell McCallister to update the committee about the Moab UMTRA Project.

Russell provided an overview of project work and progress.

As of October 19, 2020, the Moab UMTRA Project had moved a total of 11 million tons of residual radioactive material to its facility at Crescent Junction for disposal. If the project continues to move about one million tons per year, the task of moving the entire estimated 16 million tons could be completed in about five more years. Additional time would be needed for site restoration and removal of facilities not needed for future use.

The project has worked 1,500 days without a lost time accident or injury and continued to work with special precautions taken for Covid-19. Several workers have had Covid-19, but so far there have been no intra-project transmissions. Some staff worked from home and many others worked independently at the site.

The current remedial action contract (RAC) will expire in September 2021. The project will be seeking proposals for a successor contract that would extend to completion of the remedial action work. The contract will have incentives to help foster timely completion.

The project continued to look for ways to become more efficient. The recent addition of three railcars is already helping to move additional containers to Crescent Junction. Employees involved in tailings transport operations continued to work ten hour days four days per week. The project is also hoping to have the powerlines over the Moab rail bench moved so that additional rail cars could be added to each train.

The next topic that Russell covered was the project's assessment of its environmental air monitoring program. It appears that past methods may have overestimated the dose at the locations of maximally exposed individuals (MEI's). The project is looking to better reflect its distance / duration calculations.

Additionally, the project is considering designating a new MEI location for the Crescent Junction site as a new home has been built closer to the disposal cell

Russell emphasized that the project is working to have monitoring that best reflects any radiological exposure. In the future, the project is considering changes to some of the network's radon cups but it would continue to monitor for radon at the site boundary. The project is also considering whether to eliminate radioparticulates from the dosage calculations, but no decisions have been made yet. Russell said he would brief the steering committee again once the project addresses the assessment's findings.

The project has engaged an engineer, who worked on the cover for the Church Rock facility in Colorado, for the design an alternative cover for the Crescent Junction Disposal Cell. The objective is to have a better and less expensive design. The project's engineer, Chris Pulskamp, is coordinating the design work locally. It should take about a year to obtain a decision from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission about the design.

Project workers continued to excavate additional cell space at Crescent Junction. Staff developed watering procedures to reduce dust generated by the cell expansion.

Groundwater extraction should continue until mid-November. The groundwater injection system is presently down for maintenance, but will resume and continue through the winter.

Monitoring of (endangered) fish habitat continued until September 30. As of September 20, no young fish were observed (in the potential spawning area) and no dead fish were found.

The project continued to working to establish self-sustaining ground cover at the Moab site in areas with more difficult soils. This work was performed with the assistance of subject matter experts from the local U.S. Geological Survey Office. Russell thanked the Utah Department of Natural Resources for providing seed for this endeavor.

A couple beavers who were damaging trees at the site were captured and relocated downstream.

The FY 2021 budget request for the Moab UMTRA Project was \$47 million. The project is operating on a continuing resolution at the FY 20 budget level. Russell thanked local government for their cooperation with the project.

The 2019 Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER) was published last month and is available on the project's website at <https://www.gjem.energy.gov/documents/ASER/2019aser.pdf>. In 2019, the project operated without receiving any notices of violation. The report documents compliance with two radiation standards. The first is for radon and the second is for total effective dosage. Both measures were well within the established limits. The total allowable public dosage for the Moab Site was 35 % and for the Crescent Junction Site it was just below 30%.

Joette thanked Russell for reporting that the project was moving toward completion. She then asked about why some of the radon monitoring sites were being removed. Russell explained that the initial locations were established without wind rose information and that monitoring could be done more effectively at locations along the site boundary. Joette asked Russ if this would impact the monitoring station data that he reviews during the liaison's status report. Russ said yes, if a monitoring location were to be eliminated then he would change its status to "decommissioned" as no additional data would be available from the location.

Elaine reported that Representative Curtis assured her at a recent meeting that funding for the project would continue. Russell added, that while the tailings could potentially be moved in five years, additional remediation work would continue for several years.

Mary expressed her gratitude that Russell continued to be open to ideas to make the project more efficient.

6. Air Monitoring and Liaison Activities Status Update – UMTRA Liaison

The Chair Recognized the UMTRA Liaison, Russ von Koch, who presented the liaison's status update PowerPoint. Tonnage moved to Crescent Junction in July was 86.7 k tons, 72 k tons in August, and 74 k tons in September. About 68 percent of total estimated tons have now been moved. His slides portrayed operations at conditioning beds in the northern part of the pile area and also the diminishment of the mixed tailings and debris bed. 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 second quarter air quality report. Russ reported that the four quarter moving average radiation levels recorded at key monitoring stations were either down or the same as he reported in July, except that the particulate radiation at two stations was up by one percent of the allowable rate (Stations 123 Kane Creek Road and 129 NW Mill Site). The full liaison's status report is available on Grand County's Moab UMTRA Project webpage.

7. Review of 2018 Site Futures Update – UMTRA Liaison

Russ described the Site Futures planning process in 2013 and 2014 and summarized the findings of the 2018 Site Futures Update as a prelude to the agenda item number eight about site closure. The two documents Russ reviewed were the September 2018 PowerPoint "After the Pile Community Vision Update" presented to the Moab City Council and the July 2018 "North Moab Gateway Area After the Pile 2018 Community Vision Update for Future Use of the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project Site". They are both posted on Grand County's Moab UMTRA Project webpage.

8. Consideration of Planning for Site Closure – Chair and Russell McCallister

Mary introduced this topic for discussion. Russell described a memorandum of understanding with the DOE's Office of Legacy Management. He informed the committee that he has established an integrated project team to begin working on the details of what site closure would entail besides the removal of the tailings. Russell observed some of the facilities developed by the project could be useful in the future, but that they would have to be identified. As another example, he informed the group that at the Portsmouth site a portion of the site was opened for community use before the entire project was completed. He observed that opening up clean areas along the river for trail use was another example of a potential closure topic. Russell invited the committee's participation in helping to decide what facilities would remain. He further observed that such cooperation could help to define where trees could be planted and have time to grow while other project work is underway. He noted that he has assigned Chris Pulskamp to work on closure topics.

Mary asked Russell how many people from the committee might participate in planning for closure. He said it could start at a high level with Mary and six to eight others that could split into smaller groups to address specific topics. Russell mentioned setting up a "war room" with maps of the site where the group could meet and start with discussing the future of existing infrastructure. Mary suggested having several people from MTPSC involved for continuity and asked Russell if the process could start by having him extend an invitation for an initial meeting. Russell noted that it

could start in the next couple of weeks. Mary suggested that Joette serve and asked others to let her know if they are interested. Russ asked to be involved as chair of the Site Futures Committee.

Joette asked Russell to help with getting more information from Legacy Management about the procedures for eventual transfer of the property and also mentioned the idea of having it done through Congress. Russell said Legacy Management would be a key partner. He also recommended starting now as such actions can take a long time.

Mary, Joette, and Russ (representing the Site Futures Committee) expressed interest in participating.

9. Stakeholder Updates – Chair

The Chair asked the members to present any stakeholder updates to the committee.

There were no stakeholder updates.

Russ asked Russell if he had any update for Workforce Services on employment opportunities at the site. He said that he would provide the information.

10. Future Agenda Items?

The Chair asked the members if they had any additional items to add to the committee’s normal agenda for future meetings.

No suggestions for future agenda items were proposed.

11. Future Meeting Dates – Chair

The Chair reminded the members that MTPSC meetings have traditionally been held on the fourth Tuesday of January, April, July, and October For 2021, these dates would be January 26, April 27, July 27, and October 25.

No date changes were proposed. The traditional dates listed above were adopted.

12. Adjourn

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

S/s Russ von Koch, Grand County UMTRA Liaison

Approved

Date

Mary McGann, MTPSC Chairperson
