

Moab Tailings Project Steering Committee Meeting

January 26, 2016, 3:00pm

APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING

County Council Chambers

125 E. Center St.

Moab, Utah 84532

The following individuals were present:

Committee Members:

Elaine Gizler, Moab Area Travel Council
Bill Jackson, Grand County Road Department
Jennifer Jones, BLM – Moab Field Office
Joette Langanese, At Large
Zachariah Levine, Grand County Community Development
Dave Sakrison, Mayor, City of Moab
Mark Sovine, Grand Water and Sewer Service Agency
Kelly Thornton, Utah Department of Workforce Services
Lee Shenton, County UMTRA Liaison (non-voting staff for MTPSC)

Moab UMTRA:

Lori Largen (DOE-EM, Deputy Chief of Staff), Don Metzler (DOE, Federal Project Director), Wendee Ryan (S&K Aerospace, Public Affairs Manager), Kym Bevan (S&K Aerospace, Moab TAC)

Citizens:

Rudy Herndon (Moab Sun News), Eli Tome (Sovereign Lands Coordinator, Utah Forestry, Fire and State Lands)

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m. by Acting Chair Joette Langanese.

Joette introduced new Stakeholders Jennifer Jones, replacing Rock Smith as the BLM representative, and Phil Goble (by phone), replacing Connie Nakahara as the Utah Department of Environmental Quality representative. The Committee thanks Connie and Rock for their lengthy and valuable service. Lori noted that EM-1 Mark Whitney had been stranded by the east-coast blizzard but intends to attend a future Committee meeting.

2. Review of Minutes of July 28, 2015 and October 27, 2015 Meetings – Mark moved (Kelly second) to approve the minutes for both meetings as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Project Status and Funding – Don noted that the Project team reached the halfway point on January 20th, having moved 8 million tons of tailings so far. Don reported a slip-and-fall on ice in early-January that caused an OSHA-recordable Lost-Time Injury for an employee, who is now back at work after surgery.

Don reviewed the rock slide mitigation efforts, saying that the barrier and radar system are in place with very few problems. He also updated the Committee on the “Well 205” water accumulation issue at the disposal cell, noting that there is still no evidence that the fluids are related to tailings. Don stated that FY16 funding has been increased about \$1 million to \$38 million but there may still

be a curtailment shutdown before the end of FY16, as is happening at other DOE sites around the country. Lori discussed the funding situation for DOE-EM projects and assured the Stakeholders that the situation was being watched closely for Moab and all projects.

Don noted that the Project was planning to start excavation of Phase 3 of the disposal cell within the next two months, expecting to complete about half in FY17 and the rest in FY18 to make room for more tailings.

4. Stakeholder Updates – Mark Sovine commended the Moab UMTRA team for their outstanding safety record in reaching 2.5 million hours worked since the 2009 OSHA-recordable injury. Phil Goble described his history with radiation control efforts in Utah, including interactions with Moab UMTRA. Joette mentioned the need for rock fall monitoring in Arches NP and Don responded that Moab UMTRA was willing to share their expertise. Elaine asked Don about the safety precautions used by Moab UMTRA employees who are spraying in the polyurethane liners in the tailings containers. Kelly noted that Workforce Services is ready to assist employees in the case of a curtailment.
5. Air Monitoring and Activities – Lee announced extension of the DOE grant to Grand County for the next year, initial planning for a Science Festival this Fall in Moab and an upcoming presentation on Moab UMTRA at the biennial symposium of the Solid Waste Association of North America. Lee reviewed the most recent air monitoring results, indicating no significant change in trends for gamma and radon levels at the most sensitive offsite locations, which continue well below their respective guidelines. He pointed out a continuing and expected gradual decline in radioparticulate levels, which are also well below the guideline. Lee stated that to date the Project has intercepted 862,000 pounds of ammonia and 4,500 pounds of uranium, keeping these from reaching the river.

Lee pointed out the gradual increase in radon levels at the west end of the disposal cell, consistent with accumulating more tailings, and that the levels are still well below guidelines. Don mentioned that the increase should slow once the project places the final cover on completed portions of the cell.
6. Future Agenda Items – Lee suggested that the Site Futures Subcommittee should be re-convened next year. Remaining quarterly meetings this year are planned for April 26th, July 26th and October 25th. Funding, progress and air monitoring reviews are intended for the April agenda.
7. Meeting was adjourned by consensus at 4:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lee Shenton, Grand County UMTRA Liaison