

Moab Tailings Project Steering Committee Meeting

July 23, 2019, 3:00 p.m.

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING

Grand County Courthouse

125 East Center

Moab, Utah 84532

The following individuals were present:

Committee Members

Mary McGann, Committee Chair, Grand County Council Member
Rick Bailey, Grand County Office of Emergency Management
Elaine Gizler, Moab Area Travel Council
Zacharia Levine, Grand County Community and Economic Development
Lance Porter, Bureau of Land Management
Rani Derasary, Moab City Council
Dana van Horn, Grand Water & Sewer Service Agency
Anthony 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, Department of Energy
Sasha Robertson, Deputy Federal Cleanup Director, Department of Energy
Honora Thompson (Pro2Serve, Public Affairs Manager TAC Team)
Barbara Michel, (S&K Logistics, Administrative Assistant TAC Team)
Richard Smalley, S&K Logistics

Citizens, Other Agency Representatives, and Media

Lee Shenton, citizen

1. Call to Order

Chair Mary McGann called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.
Per Resolution 3170 at least five committee members were present to constitute a quorum.

2. Introductions

The Chair asked those present to introduce themselves (see above for a list of attendees).

3. Review of Minutes from the April 23, 2019 Meeting

The Chair asked the members to review the minutes. Rani pointed out that in the Washington DC Trip report section where the draft minutes stated that the group had met with members or staff of all of the Utah Congressional Delegation that they did not meet with Congressman Stewart or anyone from his staff. Rani also noted that in Joette's update that she did not meet with Nathan Anderson of Union Pacific Railroad, but had spoken with him by phone. Rani subsequently moved and Zacharia seconded a motion to change the minutes to reflect that the Washington trip participants spoke with members or staff of all of

the Utah Congressional delegation “except Congressman Stewart’s” and that Joette had “spoken” not “met” with Nathan Anderson of Union Pacific Railroad. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Citizens to Be Heard

The Chair asked if any citizens present would like to address the committee.

No citizens requested to be heard.

5. Moab UMTRA Project Update

The Chair asked Russell McCallister to update the committee about recent activity at the Moab UMTRA Project Site.

Russell began by introducing Sasha Robertson as the Project’s new Deputy Federal Cleanup Director and noted that she is based in Moab.

Russell continued by providing an overview of progress and activity at the Moab Site.

He reported that the Project was sending four trains of tailings per week to the Crescent Junction disposal site, that approximately 9.8 million tons of tailings have been transported to Crescent Junction, that the Project attained 1,000 days without a “lost work time” accident in May, and that it is expected that the milestone of 10,000,000 tons moved to the Crescent Junction Disposal Cell should be attained sometime in late September or early October.

Russell noted that the Project was working to reduce blowing dust at the site and that an integrated project team had been convened to examine additional ways to increase the efficiency of dust control. One strategy already implemented is to fill water truck tanks so they are available at the start of the day. The Project is also considering the use of sprinklers to augment dust control measures.

Elaine asked about the budget for 2020. Russell observed that he was optimistic for next year and that FY19 carryover funds should allow the Project to continue four trains per week through the end of the calendar year. Rani asked how the Project had handled the high water on the Colorado River. Russell explained that the Project’s removal of tailings had continued throughout the episode and that groundwater treatment work had been suspended.

6. Consideration of Annual Statement of Continued Compliance with the Grand County Conditional Use Permit by the Moab UMTRA Project (July 19, 2018 to July 18, 2019)

The Chair asked Russell McCallister to present the annual statement. He first addressed the four required elements of the conditional use permit (CUP) beginning with a summary of accomplishments over the past year.

a. Summary of work completed pursuant to the approved CUP in the last 12 months

Russell reported that a major accomplishment was moving 644,000 tons of residual radioactive material to the Crescent Junction disposal site during the annual reporting period. He observed that a total of 9.85 million tons had been moved since inception of the work representing 61.5% of the total estimated 16 million tons in the pile. In February the Project started shipping four trains per week to Crescent Junction which doubled weekly train shipments. Another highlight was that the Project initiated a debris shipping campaign to remove some of the debris left over from the former uranium mill site. More than 22,000

tons were moved to Crescent Junction. Russell established an integrated project team to look at how to best remove the larger debris. He also noted that a total of more than 5,000 tons of elemental uranium has been removed from the ground water at the Moab Site since work began. During the annual reporting period, Russell mentioned that the Project had purchased 51 new containers, 4 trucks, and 6 trailers.

At the Moab Site, the Project continues to ship four trainloads per week. Infrastructure maintenance at the Moab Site included repairing the asphalt at the loading area. For the reporting period, the Project extracted more than 5.1 million gallons of ground water resulting in the removal of 14,100 pounds of ammonia and 130 pounds of uranium. Operation of the interim groundwater system was suspended during the winter months as usual.

At the Crescent Junction Site, the Project continued to place tailings into the disposal cell. They also repaired asphalt at the unloading area, but some of the new asphalt is already deteriorating. In July the Moab Project signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Energy's Office of Legacy Management to begin considering an alternative cover design at Crescent Junction. Russell stated that the Project will seek approval from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to utilize a cover design that will outperform the standard Nuclear Regulatory Commission approved cover design and be less costly to install.

b. Number of workers employed on site in the past year and projected for the coming year.

Russell reported that about 140 workers were employed by the Project.

c. Work plan for the coming 12 months, including any modifications, additions, and deletions to this CUP and the remediation plan as may be proposed.

Russell explained that the amount of work to be completed in the next 12 months will depend on the amount of money available to the Project and that they will ship 4 trains per week as long as possible.

d. Air and water quality monitoring reports and supporting materials sufficient to inform the public regarding any health risks associated with the Project.

Russell noted that the air and water quality monitoring and reporting is on-going and continues to show exposure levels below technical limits.

Russell next summarized the Moab Project's response to the committee's specific information requests for reporting period.

CUP Condition 1 -- Project Longevity

Please briefly list significant actions taken in the past year to advance the completion date of the Moab UMTRA Project.

Russell again reported that the Project had increased shipments from two trains per week to four trains per week and that they were moving debris left on-site from the former uranium mill.

CUP Condition 3 -- Water Supply / Water Right

Please concisely describe significant actions taken in the past year to assure a continuing water supply for operations at the Crescent Junction Disposal Cell.

Russell reviewed the on-going maintenance of the pumping stations that supply the Crescent Junction Site with water from the Green River. He also discussed the expense of providing daily fuel deliveries to the four pumping stations between the Green River and Crescent Junction.

CUP Condition 5 -- Outdoor Lighting

Condition 5 limits outdoor lighting to the minimum needed for security and safety purposes and requires the use of “full cut-off” light fixtures to reduce light pollution. Grand County recently affirmed its support for reduction of light pollution by approving a “night sky” outdoor lighting ordinance. Adjacent Arches National Park emphasizes night sky viewing for visitors. Please succinctly portray any plans to replace some of the existing outdoor lighting at the site with full cut-off fixtures in accordance with CUP Condition 5.

Russell noted that the Project was aware of the new ordinance and had been looking at fixtures for the Project’s parking area that would meet the requirement including motion sensor lights. He mentioned the need to also provide for worker safety when considering lighting needs.

CUP Condition 6 -- Landscaping and Aesthetics

Condition 6 requires screening for the mobile trailer staging and parking area portion of the Moab Project by planting trees. Please provide an update on compliance with this condition.

Russell mentioned that while trees had been planted and were being watered that it was important to think about who would provide landscape maintenance in the future. He said that the Project was concentrating on using plants that would survive without a lot of water following the advice of a local subject matter expert. He also noted that the Project was working on putting equipment and materials behind buildings to reduce their visibility and that they had planted a pollinator plot that will bloom all summer and be visible from the highway.

CUP Condition 10 -- Local Employees

Condition 10 specifies that the Project use best efforts to utilize qualified local workers. Please summarize the result of the recent workforce expansion to recruit local workers when the Project expanded its operation in February 2019 to double the number of tailings trains per week to the Crescent Junction Disposal Cell.

Russell reported that about 140 people were employed by the Project. Of the 23 new employees 12 are from Grand County and an additional 6 are from other parts of Utah. Some of the 23 employees who worked at the site, when American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds were available, brought their experience back to the Project.

CUP Condition 12 -- Final Mill Site Reclamation

Condition 12 requires site restoration work. Please briefly describe the Project’s present concept for restoration of the site and any recent successes or challenges related to site restoration.

Russell related that the Project is re-vegetating areas as they are cleaned up. He also reviewed the challenges of re-vegetating the site during periods and of drought and flooding.

2019 Flood Event

The committee also requested that the Project address its response to the anticipated spring flooding of the Colorado River and any related impacts to the Moab Site.

Russell stated that there were no significant impacts upon operations from the flooding other than it was necessary to suspend groundwater operations.

The Chair asked committee members if they had questions or comments about the annual statement.

Russ asked about enlarging the silt pond at the Green River pumping station. Russell said that work was limited to cleaning the pond and installing a silt fence between the two sides of the pond similar to that used to keep sediment out of the water system at the Moab Site.

Liaison's note: The committee inadvertently did not consider a motion to recommend approval of the Annual Statement of Continued Compliance. This item has been added to the agenda for the October 29th MTPSC meeting for ratification. Copies of the annual statement have been sent to all MTPSC members.

7. Consideration of Recommending that the Grand County Council Send a Letter to Russell McCallister Requesting Support for a New Five-year Expense Reimbursement Grant to Grand County to Replace Grant DE-EM0003456 that Expires January 13, 2020.

The chair asked the members to review a proposed letter to Russell McCallister from the Grand County Council requesting his support for renewing the existing Department of Energy Grant to Grand County which expires in January of 2020. Tony moved and Rani seconded a motion to approve the letter. Mary suggested an amendment that would change the sentence about the amount of funding from that of the previous grant period to the actual charges paid by the grant over the past five years.

After additional discussion, it was decided to drop the budget-related sentence altogether as the purpose of the letter was simply to request support for the renewal of the grant. Tony and Rani agreed to rephrase the motion and it was passed unanimously with the amendment to delete any reference to a future grant budget.

8. Air Monitoring and Liaison Activities Update

The Chair asked Russ to present the liaison's status update.

Russ presented an abbreviated review of Project status as some of his report, such as tailings tonnage, overlapped with the Annual Statement of Continued Annual Compliance presented by Russell McCallister. *Liaison's Note: tonnage and groundwater numbers in the two reports are slightly different as the liaison's update includes data through the end of June while the Project's annual report numbers extend to July 18. The full PowerPoint presentation for the liaison's status update will be posted on the Grand County UMTRA page.*

Russ reviewed the long-term progress of the Project to move tailings to the Crescent Junction Disposal Site. He also discussed the data for the four quarter moving average which now includes the data for the first quarter of 2019. Key points were that: Since February, with the advent of loading four trains per week, the Project nearly doubled the number of tons of tailings moved to Crescent Junction in April, May, and June. For radon, gamma, and particulate radiation, all reported levels remain well under the guidelines for exposure.

Russ distributed a hand-out of a summary of the quarterly four quarter moving average changes in radon, gamma, and particulate radiation starting from 17Q2-18Q1 to help the members visualize changes over the past 5 reported quarters.

As part of his presentation, Russ additionally showed slides depicting the extent of the high water flows onto the Moab UMTRA Site from the Colorado River and where the Project had successfully built up a section of the berm around the tailings pile to prevent floodwaters from reaching the pile. In a subsequent series of slides, Russ reviewed the size of the mill debris pile most visible from State Route 279, and how the Project had been working to compress, sort, and load the debris. He then reviewed slides taken at the Crescent Junction Disposal Cell that showed the extent of the mill debris moved from the Moab Site and how it was being placed in the cell.

Zacharia suggested that, in addition to posting the Project's efforts to remove the mill debris as part of the Liaison's status update, that more information about debris disposal efforts could be featured as separate postings on the County's UMTRA or Facebook pages.

9. Stakeholder Updates

The Chair asked the members to present any stakeholder updates to the committee. Mary initiated discussion of helping the Project celebrate the milestone of moving 10 million tons of tailings from the Moab Site to the Crescent Junction Disposal Cell. She suggested several possible venues for a fall event. Elaine mentioned that finding lodging would be difficult in September and suggested mid-November to December. Rani volunteered to help. Sasha suggested staying away from the holiday period.

10. Future Agenda Items

The Chair asked the members if they had any additional items to add to the committee's normal agenda for the October 29, 2019 meeting.

No additional items were suggested.

11. Future Meeting Dates

The Chair reviewed the remaining 2019 meeting date approved at the October 2018 steering committee meeting. The meeting is scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday October 29. It will be held at the Council Chambers in the courthouse.

No changes were made to the previously approved meeting schedule.

12. Adjourn

The Chair adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Russ von Koch/, Grand County UMTRA Liaison