

Moab Tailings Project Steering Committee Meeting

October 29, 2019, 3:00 p.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING

Council 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

Bill Jackson, Grand County Road Department

Zacharia Levine, Grand County Community and Economic Development

Kelly Thornton, Department of Workforce Services

Amy Tendick, National Park Service

Lisa Wilkoiak, Bureau of Land Management

Rani Derasary, Moab City

Dana van Horn, Grand Water & Sewer Service Agency

Linda Whitham, The Nature Conservancy

Joette Langianese, At-Large Stakeholder

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)

Joe Ritchey (S&K Logistics, Senior Program Manager, Technical Assistance Contract)

Honora Thompson (Pro2Serve, Public Affairs Manager, Technical Assistance Contract)

Citizens, Other Agency Representatives, and Media:

Michael Adkison, Mike Price, AJ Rogers,

Evan Tyrell, Solid Waste Management SSD District #1

Orion Rogers, Jonathan Dutrow, & Kirt Jensen, Southeast Utah Health District

Chrystal White, Friends of Arches and Canyonlands National Parks

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. / by the Chair.

Per Resolution 3170 at least five committee members were present to constitute a quorum.

2. Introductions

The Chair asked those at the table to introduce themselves and the committee members present gave their names and affiliations. Russell McCallister the Project's Federal Cleanup Director and Sasha Robertson the Deputy Cleanup Director also introduced themselves.

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

The Chair asked the members if they had an opportunity to review the minutes. As no revisions were suggested, the Chair asked if there were comments or questions about the minutes. Rani thanked Russ for preparing the minutes. As there was no more discussion, the chair asked for a motion.

Rani moved and Tony seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Citizens to be Heard

The Chair began by asking the other attendees to introduce themselves starting with Evan Tyrell.

Evan introduced himself as the District Manager for the Solid Waste Management Special Service District. Mike Price introduced himself as the last geologist who worked at the (mill) site. Jonathan Dutrow introduced himself as being with the Southeast Utah Health District. Orion Rogers introduced himself as the Environmental Health Director for the Southeast Utah Health Department. AJ Rogers introduced himself as a Thompson Springs resident. Crystal White introduced herself as representing the Friends of Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. Kirt Jensen introduced himself as also being with the health department. Michael Adkison introduced himself as a citizen. Joe Ritchey introduced himself as being with the Project's Technical Assistance Contractor as did Honora Thompson.

The chair then asked if any citizens would like to speak and noted that speakers limit their presentations to five minutes.

The Chair recognized Michael Adkison. Michael noted his frustration with not becoming a member of the committee.

Michael then described the interim cover placed over the pile in 2009 as being four foot thick over the slimes and three feet over the rest of the pile.

Michael questioned why is it that if operating mills including the White Mesa Mill near Blanding are required, by subpart W of the EPA's 2017 final rule for national emissions, to control radon emissions by keeping solid uranium byproduct materials or tailings saturated with liquid at all times, and that no solid material may be visible above the liquid, then why have the tailings at the Moab UMTRA site been uncovered since 2009?

Michael then cited information from Gordon Edwards PhD from a speech at the World Uranium Hearing in Salzburg Australia. Dr. Gordon described how radiation from uranium tailings can disperse into the environment by wind and water after the mining companies close down.

Michael then concluded that part of his mission is to show that the tailings can be moved faster and for less money and that he has knowledge that can help the committee.

5. Moab UMTRA Project Update

Overview of Moab UMTRA Project Progress

Federal Cleanup Director McCallister provided the update. He began by thanking Mary, Rani, Joette, and Elaine for the help with the Ten Million Ton Celebration event. He noted that the discussion at Lion's Park with Ike White, Environmental Management's Senior Advisor, went well.

Russell reported that the Project moved more than 740,000 tons of tailings to the Crescent Junction Disposal Cell in FY 2019 and that the Project had worked 1,152 days without a lost time injury.

Russell informed the committee that groundwater extraction operations would continue through November and that, while injection operations were currently off-line for maintenance, it was expected that they would be starting again by November. He mentioned that the Project had a compromise at the side channel of the river the first week of October so they pumped in clean water to help mitigate it.

Russell also noted that the Project has retained a subject matter expert to consult on an alternative to the disposal cell cover. He mentioned that the armored cover is expensive and prone to failure. Russell informed the committee that he has a meeting with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in November to discuss the cover. He reported that the NRC has been receptive during informal discussion and that an alternative cover is supported by Legacy Management. It could also potentially save \$30 million that could be used to move the tailings.

The Project is also working with the Geological Survey towards finding which plants to use during site reclamation and other ways to stabilize the soil, such as soil crusts, that if undisturbed, may help with dust control.

Russell reported that the Project is also working with the DOE's Office of Science to examine the potential use of potassium phosphate to immobilize uranium in the groundwater. A trip to Colorado is planned to learn about how this has worked at the Rifle Site in Colorado.

Russell then reviewed the Project's 2020 budget by stating that they were now operating under a continuing resolution through November 21st with funding the same as for 2019 that allows for continuing four trains per week. He also noted that radiation monitoring continues to show generally low levels, that the Project's Annual Site Environmental Report is now on-line, that the pile is visibly smaller, and that his goal is to move one million tons during fiscal year 2020.

Following Russell's presentation, Elaine asked if the rail cars are covered. Russell said yes. She then asked if the rail cars are covered, and the tailings at the Blanding Mill are covered, why is it that the pile is not covered as in Blanding. Russell, explained that the rail cars are covered as part of the transportation permit and that the Project works to suppress dust at the site to mitigate emissions from wind-blown dust. They are not covering the site and then opening it again to move the material. In areas where they are not working to remove the tailings, they are working to promote soil crusts that are resistant to wind-blown movement.

Elaine asked for additional clarification about sites being covered. Russell explained that the Blanding site is for final disposition. Mary said we are talking about a final cover, not an interim cover. Bill noted that Blanding is a working mill site.

Michael stated that the tailings at Blanding are being saturated as they are placed. He asked why these tailings must be covered, while the tailings in Moab are uncovered during the removal process. Bill asked Michael that if he thought the tailings in Moab should be covered with a slurry was he thinking that the tailing should be transported by a pipeline? Michael said a lot could be left on site and that he had been blocked by DOE in his attempt to access to collect a microscopic slide of material or otherwise have a sample collected and tested to see if the two systems will cooperate.

Mary asked about the compromise that Russell mentioned. He said that some ammonia had gotten to the side channel of the river past their lens.

Joette asked Russell to clarify funding under the continuing resolution. Russell replied that it was at the \$45 million level. Mary reported that she had a call from Congressman Curtis' Office about what level of funding would get the Project moving more quickly. Russell noted that stepping up the budget is not fully linear and that it would take time to change contracts and hire more employees.

6. Consideration of the Annual Statement of Continued Compliance with Grand County's Conditional Use Permit by the Moab UMTRA Project (continuation of business from the July 23rd meeting).

The Chair opened this topic for general discussion by noting that this was unfinished business from the July meeting when the committee discussed the annual report presented at the meeting by the Project, but inadvertently did not vote on a recommendation. The liaison noted that all members had recently been sent a second copy of the Project's annual report.

Following discussion, the Chair asked for a motion regarding a recommendation from the committee to the Grand County Council regarding approval of the Project's Annual Statement.

Joette moved to recommend that the county council formally accept the annual compliance report. Rani seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

7. Consideration of Amending Grand County Resolution 3170 governing the MTPSC to: a) clarify the descriptions of existing committee members, b) combine the Thompson Springs and Crescent Junction members into a joint position, c) create new member positions for the Solid Waste Management Special Service District # 1 and the Southeast Utah Health Department, and d) add authority for the Chairperson to appoint an acting chairperson from the committee membership in his or her absence.

The Chair introduced this topic. She advised the group that any recommended revision of the resolution would be subject to legal review and then described the proposed changes to the existing membership and Steering Committee Chairperson sections and also proposed an update to the Whereas clause of the resolution regarding the estimated number of tons of tailings to be moved. Other members then proposed making additional changes to the "Whereas" clauses to further update the resolution. Two additional changes were proposed. These were to add that the past MTPSC chair would also be invited to attend and participate in committee meetings as a non-voting member and that with the proposed increase in the number of voting members that the quorum should be increased from five members to seven members.

Tony moved that the committee approve the amendments to Resolution 3170 as revised through the discussion. Dana seconded the motion. The Chair called for a vote and the proposed amendments to Resolution 3170 were approved as revised for recommendation to the Grand County Council. The attached text changes to Resolution 3170, shown in red, are the MTPSC recommendations to the Grand County Council. The following summarizes the amendments approved by the MTPSC that are fully written in the attachment.

The recommended amendments include updating and adding to the "Whereas" clauses section of the resolution to reflect that:

- There has been a series of remedial action and technical assistance contracts,
- The total estimated tonnage of tailings to be moved to Crescent Junction has increased from 13 million to 16 million tons following additional site characterization,
- In 2017, the Governor of Utah signed a resolution unanimously approved by the Utah State Legislature that urged the DOE allocate funding to complete the Moab UMTRA Project by 2025, and

-- As of September 2019, ten million tons of tailings have been moved to Crescent Junction and that an estimated six million tons remain at the Moab site to be transported,

The recommended amendments include changes to Committee Members section that:

-- Combine the Thompson Springs and Crescent Junction membership into a one position for a resident of either community and specify that the Community At Large member must be a resident of the Grand County Community,

-- Create two new membership positions for the Solid Waste Management Special Service District #1 and the Southeast Utah Department of Health respectively, and

-- Update agency membership descriptions to provide for consistent agency names, the titles of agency officials, and designee capacity, and

-- Add the past MTPSC Chair to the list of officials who may be invited to attend and participate in MTPSC meeting on a non-voting as-needed basis.

The recommended amendments include changes to the Steering Committee Chairperson section that provide the Chairperson with the authority to appoint an acting chair to help ensure completion of the chairperson's duties in his or her absence.

The recommended amendments further provide for increasing the number of members present for a quorum by two members to a total of seven members.

8. Air Monitoring and Liaison Activities Update – 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 second quarter air quality report

Overall the air quality data was fairly similar with no off-site stations reporting readings for radon, gamma, and particulate radiation above the allowable limits. Russ presented both the routine air quality slides and a handout showing how the data has been changing at each monitoring site over recent reporting periods.

Russ then presented slides showing how the Project mixes, harrows, and dries the RRM to facilitate normal and winter time transport to the Crescent Junction Disposal Cell.

9. Stakeholder Updates

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

Russ mentioned that Lance Porter is leaving Moab to work for BLM in Vernal. Lisa informed the committee that the new BLM Field Manager, Nicollee Gaddis-Wyatt would be the new BLM representative to the MTPSC.

10. Future Agenda Items

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

Russ asked if the group had any suggestions for future presentations by the Liaison. Suggestions included:

- a) A presentation about operations at Crescent Junction,
- b) A presentation about Project safety and job training by the Project to help the committee better understand how they have operated for extensive periods without a lost work day incident), and
- c) A presentation of historical photos showing the site from before the uranium mill to the present day. Dana noted that historical photos of the Moab Project site should be available on the Utah State Archives website. The Museum of Moab was mentioned as another possible source for photographs. Joe Ritchey mentioned that the DOE also had many historical photos. Google Earth's historic photo capability was another suggested source.

Members also requested a committee tour of the Crescent Junction Site and a separate committee tour of the Moab site (from SR 279) with Project staff similar to that conducted in the spring of 2019. It was also noted that individual committee members could call Russ and (with DOE security approval) accompany him on one of his monthly visits to Crescent Junction Disposal Cell. Russ noted that members can also go with him on his weekly visits to observe Moab site operations from SR 279.

11. Future Meeting Dates

The Chair asked about the following meeting dates for the 2020 meetings of the steering committee meeting: January 28, May 26, July 28, and October 27. After a question about having the meeting date in May rather than April, there was general agreement about the meeting dates. All meetings are scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. on the 4th Tuesdays in the Courthouse Council Chambers.

12. Adjourn

The Chair adjourned the meeting at: 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

s/s Russ von Koch, Grand County UMTRA Liaison