

Moab Tailings Project Steering Committee Meeting

July 25, 2017, 3:00pm

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING

Grand County Courthouse

125 East Center

Moab, Utah 84532

The following individuals were present:

Committee Members:

Mary McGann, Chair and County Council Member
Rani Derasary, Moab City Council
Karen Garthwait, National Park Service, Southeast Utah Group
Elaine Gizler, Moab Area Travel Council
Joette Langianese, At-Large Stakeholder
Zachariah Levine, Grand County Community Development
Katie Stevens, BLM – Moab Field Office
Dana van Horn, Grand Water and Sewer Service Agency
Lee Shenton, County UMTRA Liaison (non-voting staff for MTPSC)

Moab UMTRA:

Ellen Mattlin (DOE, Acting Federal Project Director), Joe Ritchey (S&K Logistics Services, TAC Senior Program Manager), Ed Skintik (DOE, Environmental Management Consolidated Business Center), Steve Olszewski (DOE, Acting Contractor Officer Representative), Ron Daily (AmecFW, Radiological Control Manager), Del Dayrit (DOE, Health and Safety Manager), Wendee Ryan (S&K Logistics Services, Public Affairs Manager)

Utah Department of Health:

Dr. Nathan LaCross (Epidemiologist, Disease Control and Prevention), Dr. Evelyn Reátegui (Toxicologist, Disease Control and Prevention)

Citizens:

Rudy Herndon (Moab Sun News), Molly Marcello (Moab Times Independent)

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Mary McGann. Per Resolution 2992 sufficient committee members were present to constitute a quorum.
2. Review of Minutes of April 24, 2017 Meeting – Elaine moved (Rani second) to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Project Status – FPD Ellen Mattlin reviewed her previous experience as a DOE federal project director, and progress in hiring replacements for departed DOE managers. Ellen reported on current Moab UMTRA initiatives to replace worn equipment and improve infrastructure. She thanked Grand County and Moab City representatives (Mary, Rani and Joette) for coming to Washington DC to appeal for increased funding, noting that the meeting was timely, informative, and demonstrated stakeholder interest in cleaning up the site. She mentioned that the Senate proposal for Moab FY18 is about \$38 million and the House proposal is about \$34 million, compared to the President's Budget Request of \$35.3 million and about \$38 million actual for FY17. Ellen said the Project expects to ship tailings at about the current rate for FY18 if funded at the Presidential request level.

The current Technical Assistance Contract has been extended from June through September 19th while the new award is determined.

4. Update of Moab Area Epidemiological Study – Dr. Nathan LaCross (UDOH) explained the methodology used and defined the various statistical values to be presented, noting that his update covers new cancer cases identified in the Moab area between 1980 and 2014. For each 5-year period (e.g., 2000-2004), cancer rates in the Moab area were compared to cancer rates in the rest of the state. He explained that there are a number of variables in addition to exposures that can affect the rate of types of cancers, including age, gender, behaviors (smoking frequently being the most significant), housing, income, and family history.

Nathan presented results suggesting a cluster of lung and bronchial cancer in the Moab area. The rate in males was significantly elevated as compared to the state in all time periods examined. The rate in both genders combined was significantly elevated in all but the 2005-2009 time period, while the rate in females was elevated in only two of the seven time periods. In the most recent time period (2010-2014), the rate of lung and bronchial cancer for males in the Moab area (7.7 cases per 10,000 men) was over twice as high as the rate for males living in the rest of the state. This result is similar to those from the prior time periods, and there is no evidence of a significant trend in the rates. However, Utah overall has a low incidence of cancer compared to the rest of the nation. Smoking is the most important risk factor for lung cancer, and is linked to 80-90% of lung cancers nationwide. The smoking rate in the Moab/San Juan area is substantially higher than in the rest of the state (roughly 40-75% higher, depending on gender). Other risk factors include exposure to radon, exposure to certain substances (e.g., asbestos, arsenic, diesel exhaust, etc.), and genetics.

Nathan stated that there is evidence for significant increasing trends in the rates of rectal cancer (males and both genders combined), kidney cancer (both genders combined), and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (both genders combined). While the rates of these cancers were not currently significantly elevated over the rest of Utah, the increasing trends indicate that they may become so in the future.

Nathan said a link to this report will be available to the public by late-September.

5. Visit to DOE DC June 22nd – Rani moved that this item be postponed to the end of the agenda and Chair McGann did so with consensus of the committee.
6. Review of Annual Statement – Lee explained the process, history and why he recommended the Stakeholders consider more closely two issues: employee radiological exposure and evaluation of continuing the hedgerow of cottonwoods nearest the highway. Joe Ritchey reviewed the applicable federal regulations, DOE orders and local programs. He explained the Project rationale for withholding a discussion of employee exposure this year, i.e. their interpretation of CUP Section 17 that it addresses only public, not employee exposure. After an extensive discussion, FPD Mattlin agreed to the Stakeholders request to have her team add back to the 2017 Annual Statement a section describing employee exposure. After further discussion, the Stakeholders agreed that the section on evaluation of the hedgerow was acceptable but asked that the Project not abandon the hedgerow without first informing this committee to discuss options. Karen moved (Elaine second) to forward to County Council the 2017 Annual Statement with the agreed revisions, with our recommendation to formally accept it. Motion passed unanimously. Lee will present this to Council at their August 1st session.
7. Stakeholder Updates – No specific Stakeholder updates were offered.

8. Air Monitoring and Activities – Lee presented charts of environmental monitoring results for 16Q2 through 17Q1, the latest results available. The trend to higher wintertime radon peaks continued at both sites but levels were still well below the maximum allowable. Lee pointed out a gradual increase in gamma over the last six years at Station 129, immediately outside the northwest boundary of the Moab site, from about 115 mREM/yr to about 125 mREM/yr but that is still well below the guideline of 182 mREM/yr. There was no indication of significant changes in trends for gamma, radon or radioparticulate levels at the other offsite locations, which continue well below their respective limits.
9. Visit to DOE DC June 22nd – Mary gave a brief overview of the brochure that was presented at DOE Headquarters by her, Rani and Joette. Mary noted that there were eight DOE representatives present and the presentation was well-received.
10. Future Agenda Items – Lee suggested updates on project progress and funding, a review of air monitoring results, and setting our meeting schedule for 2018.
11. Meeting was adjourned by consensus at 5:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lee Shenton, Grand County UMTRA Liaison