

Moab Tailings Project Steering Committee Meeting

October 27, 2015, 3:00pm

APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING

County Council Chambers

125 E. Center St.

Moab, Utah 84532

The following individuals were present:

Committee Members:

Lynn Jackson, Chair and Grand County Council Member

Elaine Gizler, Moab Area Travel Council

Joette Langianese, At Large

Rock Smith, BLM Canyon Country District

Lee Shenton, County UMTRA Liaison (non-voting staff for MTPSC)

Moab UMTRA:

Don Metzler (Federal Project Director), Wendee Ryan (Public Affairs Manager)

Citizens:

Molly Marcello (Moab Times-Independent), Mike Price (Entrada/San Juan, Inc., Blaine, WA)

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Lynn Jackson.

Mr. Mike Price, President of Entrada/San Juan, Inc. was introduced. Mr. Price was the final geologist at the Atlas Mill and is providing his knowledge of the mill operations to assist the Moab UMTRA project.

2. Review of Minutes of July 28, 2015 Meeting – Lacking a quorum of five stakeholders, Chair Jackson tabled approval of the July 28th minutes until the next meeting. No changes were suggested.
3. Project Status and Funding – Don reported that the Project team has resumed shipping full-length (136 containers) trains on October 6th so the rate of tailings removal should increase substantially and the project team expects to reach the 50% milestone (8 million tons removed) in mid-January. Don announced shipping shutdowns are planned for the week of Thanksgiving, the week of Christmas and the first week of January.

Don noted that extraction of contaminated ground water to the evaporation pond has been suspended. The Project team anticipates taking the pond out of service in early-Spring and then pumping the contaminated ground water at a lower rate to a storage tank for use in dust control. Don stated that a higher volume of fresh water from the river will be injected to compensate for the lower extraction rate.

Don informed the stakeholders that the first shipment of mill debris was unloaded at the disposal cell yesterday, October 26th. He reported that construction had begun on the defensive wall at the south end of the rail bench, designed to protect against another rockslide. Also, the next Remedial Action Contract is being developed since the current contract expires next year. Current challenges

mentioned by Don included replacing or reinforcing shipping containers, taking the old Atlas mill building out of service and expanding the disposal cell in time to avoid slowing the project.

Don expects FY16 funding of \$37.6 million but, even with the additional funding received to cover the extra expense from the rockslide, there might be a brief curtailment next summer. Joette suggested that Grand County should be prepared to contact our congressional representatives again in view of the upcoming administration change.

Lee asked if the Project was still projecting that remediation would be complete by 2025. Don said that without an increase in funding over the next few years it would be a challenge to finish by 2025. Lee asked about the current projection for completion of ground water remediation. Don said it's still too early to estimate an end date but it still looks like a couple of years after the remediation. Lee asked if the radar system (monitors for rock slides) would be passed along to another project when shipments finish. Don said that was likely. Asked about potential for setting aside a portion of the mill site for a shuttle hub for Arches NP, Don said the Project will continue to work with the NPS on that issue.

4. Stakeholder Updates – Rock Smith reported that BLM is still working with Grand County to install a water loading station just downstream from the UMTRA Moab site. No other stakeholder updates were offered.
5. Air Monitoring and Activities – Lee discussed how the rate of tailings shipments should increase with the resumption of 136-container trains. 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 described the collaboration between the Project and Museum of Moab to remove about seventy of the Museum's radioactive ore samples, which had been accumulated by donations over the last few decades. While risk to the public was minimal, the Museum decided to donate the highest-count samples to Colorado School of Mines who have the proper facility for permanent storage and research. Lee also described progress on a project to install a historical marker to recognize the people involved in the uranium industry in southeast Utah. The marker will be placed near the BLM kiosk at the intersection of US191 and Needles Overlook Road about 24 miles south of Moab. The project has been endorsed by the San Juan County Commission, Grand County Council, UDOT, BLM and is being sponsored jointly by the Museum and the Grand County Historical Preservation Commission.

6. Future Agenda Items – The Committee agreed to hold quarterly meetings next year on January 26th, April 26th, July 26th and October 25th. Funding, progress and air monitoring reviews are intended for the January agenda.
7. Joette moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 3:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lee Shenton, Grand County UMTRA Liaison