

Moab Tailings Project Steering Committee Meeting

April 28, 2015, 3:00pm

APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING

City Council Conference Room

217 E. Center St.

Moab, Utah 84532

The following individuals were present:

Committee Members:

Lynn Jackson, Chair and County Council Member

Sue Bellagamba, The Nature Conservancy

Bill Jackson, Grand County Road Department

Joette Langanese, At Large Stakeholder

Dave Sakrison, City of Moab

Rock Smith, BLM

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

Moab UMTRA:

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

Citizens:

Sarah Fields (Uranium Watch)

Per Resolution 2992, sufficient voting members were present to constitute a quorum.

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chair Lynn Jackson.
2. Review of Minutes of January 27, 2015 Meeting – As no Stakeholders present had attended the January 27 meeting, Chair Jackson suggested that rules of order be suspended temporarily to allow the minutes to be approved. All Stakeholders present concurred. Moved by Joette, seconded by Rock to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Stakeholder Updates – As Don was not yet present, Chair Jackson moved this agenda item up. Rock noted that BLM was working with DOE to resolve some drainage issues. Lee thanked BLM for providing input on a citizen's safety concerns about boating safety on the river adjacent to the Mill Site property. Lynn mentioned that Grand County was working with BLM, UDOT and Sovereign Lands to provide access to the Colorado River for water withdrawal on property immediately south of the Mill Site property.

Sue described progress on a groundwater budget study underway by USGS that might improve our understanding of potential for tailings contamination under the Matheson Wetlands. Mayor Dave noted that this study could also tie in with a possible location for a new water treatment facility.

Lynn stated that Grand County will do what they can in support of funding requests for the Moab UMTRA.

4. Project Status and Funding – Don reported on continuing impacts from the November 18th rock slide, including mitigation measures such as a radar-based early warning system, human “rock

spotters”, temporary barriers (large concrete blocks, full tailings containers on eight rail cars) and plans for a permanent ditch and barrier that could allow the project to go back to longer tailings trains.

Due to the shorter trains and extra costs incurred, Don expects the Project will move less than 700,000 tons tailings this year. He has requested additional funding from DOE-EM to cover the extra costs incurred. Don noted that the Project is still developing plans to move the mill debris to the disposal cell and that excavation of disposal cell Phase 3 is expected to begin in the Fall of 2016.

5. Air Monitoring and Activities – Lee discussed the air monitoring results up through Fourth Quarter 2014 (the most recent data available), noting that radon levels were noticeably higher than expected at the site boundaries, even allowing for the typical seasonal spike, but still below the guidelines offsite. Lee expressed concern that the project might be slowed further if radon or gamma guidelines are exceeded. He pointed out that three convergent factors which lead to increasing radon levels (growing size of excavation face, imminent shutdown of the dust-control pond, excavation of the center of the pile) are coming at a time when the Project is under additional funding pressure due to the rockslide. Sue asked what the Project would do if radon, gamma or radioparticulate levels reached the limit at any station offsite. Don replied that the Project has some options, such as increased watering or reducing the size of the drying beds and they would be watching carefully for the need to take additional actions.
6. Future Agenda Items – The Committee suggested funding and air monitoring reviews for the July agenda. Lee suggested consideration of additional questions to be addressed by the Project in their Annual Statement of Continued Compliance due in August. The next quarterly meeting is planned for Tuesday, July 28th at 3 PM.
7. Joette moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 4:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lee Shenton, Grand County UMTRA Liaison