

Moab Tailings Project Steering Committee Meeting

April 26, 2016, 3:00pm

APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC MEETING

Grand Center

182 North 500 West

Moab, Utah 84532

The following individuals were present:

Committee Members:

Mary McGann, Chair and County Council Member

Phil Goble, UDEQ

Joette Langianese, At Large

Zachariah Levine, Grand County Community Development

Katie Stevens, BLM – Moab Field Office

Kelly Thornton, Utah Department of Workforce Services

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

Moab UMTRA:

Don Metzler (DOE, Federal Project Director), Wendee Ryan (S&K Logistics Services, Public Affairs Manager),

Citizens:

Rudy Herndon (Moab Sun News), Ryan Johnson (UDEQ), Eli Tome (Sovereign Lands Coordinator, Utah Forestry, Fire and State Lands), Russ Topham (UDEQ)

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chair Mary McGann. Phil reviewed his background as UDEQ Manager of Radiation Control.
2. Review of Minutes of January 26, 2016 Meeting – Phil moved (Kelly second) to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Project Status and Funding – Don confirmed that Moab UMTRA would receive \$3.76 million less for FY17 than for FY16 and that 31 employees were laid off the morning of this meeting, a choice made by Portage to avoid repeated work suspensions over the coming years, leaving 81 employees in the Remedial Action crew. He noted that the disposal cell is being enlarged and that the tailings shipment schedule would be reduced to two trains per week by May 9th with projected shipments totaling 480,000 tons per year. Assuming that rate, Lee estimated project completion in the early 2030's. Don stated that Moab UMTRA is planning to move a significant amount of the mill debris in the next year, perhaps some by truck instead of train, in containers specially lined for that purpose.

Mary described her recent appeals to reinstate lost funding for Moab UMTRA. The Committee discussed possibilities for obtaining funding from the State of Utah. Joette noted that Utah was the only state to decline partnership with DOE for UMTRA projects. Don and Phil explained the history and why State of Utah chose not to share 10% of the project costs for Moab UMTRA, a decision signed by NRC and the Governor.

Don noted that the Moab site is unique and valuable, including valuable water rights. Don reported that the Portage contract had been extended for five years as a “Logical Follow-On” but they would need to re-bid at the conclusion of the extended contract.

4. Stakeholder Updates – Kelly noted that four UMTRA employees laid off this morning have come to Workforce Services for help so far.
5. Air Monitoring and Activities – 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 pointed out the gradual increase in radon levels at the west end of the disposal cell, consistent with accumulating more tailings, and that the levels are still well below guidelines.
6. Future Agenda Items – In view of the reduced tailings shipment rate, Lee suggested that the Committee wait to re-convene the Site Futures Subcommittee until approximately five years before project completion. Remaining quarterly meetings this year are planned for July 26th and October 25th. Joette and Zachariah agreed to work with Mary on funding strategy. Funding, Annual Statement of Compliance, progress and air monitoring reviews are intended for the July agenda.
7. Meeting was adjourned by consensus at 4:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lee Shenton, Grand County UMTRA Liaison