

Moab Tailings Project Stakeholders Committee Meeting
April 27, 2010, 3:00pm
APPROVED MINUTES
PUBLIC MEETING
Grand County Council Chambers
125 E. Center St.
Moab, Utah 84532

The following individuals were present:

Committee Members:

Pat Holyoak, Grand County Council Member (Co-Chair)
Bob Greenberg, Grand County Council Member (Co-Chair)
Audrey Graham, Grand County Council Chair (representing Thompson Springs)
Ken Davey, Moab City Economic Development
Marian DeLay, Moab Area Travel Council
Donna Metzler, Moab City Manager
Mark Sovine, Grand Water & Sewer Service Agency
Lee Shenton, UMTRA Liaison (non-voting staff for MTPSC)

Moab UMTRA Team:

Donald R. Metzler, Joe Ritchey, Larry Brede, Wendee Ryan, Ed Baker, Polly Robinson

Public:

Craig Bigler (Moab Times-Independent), Gene Ciarus (Grand County Council), John Darke, Robert Pattison

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Co-Chair Bob Greenberg.
2. Review of Minutes of 23-Feb-2010 Meeting – Minutes were adopted without corrections.
3. Moab UMTRA Project Update (Donald R. Metzler, Federal Project Director) – Don reported that they had reached the stage of looking for new safety and production efficiencies, having achieved the first million tons moved on March 4th and full 136-container loads on all ten trains the week of March 12th. The project is 34 trains ahead of the plan. He estimated they would reach two million tons by August. The project team has been granted a modification to the DOT Special Permit that will allow them to reduce the level of detailed paperwork, thus saving time. A second gantry crane was purchased with ARRA funding to reduce the “single point of failure” risk and will be used to make container loading and offloading operations more efficient. The rail spur at Crescent Junction is being extended to accommodate two more railcars (allowing 8 more containers per day, a 5% increase). A new container wash facility (aka “the carwash”) has been installed which should reduce the frequency of manual “swipe testing” of container exterior surfaces prior to shipping. The \$108 million ARRA funding expires at the end of FY2011 but Don is optimistic that additional funding could be provided if the project team continues to meet or exceed safety and production goals.

Project representatives met this afternoon with National Park Service and BLM representatives to discuss post-project disposition of the site, since by law other federal agencies have right of first refusal. Don announced that a webcam had been activated which overviews the Moab site, with images updated every five minutes, and can be accessed via the UMTRA website at www.gjem.energy.gov under Current Status/Site Operations and Maintenance. Don also reported that

small evaporation ponds had been excavated in the slimes area of the pile to manage acidic water encountered there. Larry Brede, EnergySolutions Project Manager, presented the Steering Committee with a “Milestone” (sandstone with engraved plaque) commemorating the March achievements, noting that EnergySolutions and the entire UMTRA project team appreciate the ongoing support from Grand County.

Mark Sovine asked if the container latch issue had been resolved. Larry reported that revisions to the haul trucks’ control mechanisms had significantly reduced the frequency of latch issues. Pat asked how the second gantry crane would be used. Don responded that the cranes would be “choreographed” to operate simultaneously, thus improving the efficiency of truck/train container transfers. Bob asked if fluids from the new “carwash” would be recycled. Larry said the washes would not be re-used but would be distributed on the pile. Audrey asked about continued stimulus funding for the extra trains. Bob noted that he and Pat intended to return to Washington, D.C. to appeal for adequate funding to meet the 2019 target date for project completion and could use more data to justify their requests. Ken observed that Senator Robert Bennett, who has been one of the staunch supporters of project funding, might not be re-elected. Don suggested that Grand County might seek renewed support from the Southern California Water District. Don noted that his team is preparing a contingency plan in case current funding levels do not continue into FY 2012.

4. Community Outreach Update – Lee reviewed Liaison activities since the last MTPSC meeting, including community outreach sessions with the staff at Arches NP and the citizens of Thompson Springs. Lee mentioned that the two concerns expressed most by the public had been environmental safety and jobs. He also mentioned that he would provide a review of First Quarter 2010 air monitoring results when they were available, probably by early-June. He alerted the MTPSC to possible changes in reporting of radioparticulates due to revisions to the guidelines (being updated with newer knowledge of health impacts). He reported monitoring visits to the Moab site at least weekly and the Crescent Junction site monthly. He also reported observing well sampling in the Matheson Wetlands Preserve with the project team and promised to monitor the sampling results. [NOTE: After the meeting Bob asked that a more detailed report of Liaison activities be included to show how the grant monies were being used. That report is attached.]

5. Stakeholder Updates

Marian DeLay thanked Wendee Ryan and Ed Baker for their prompt response to project lighting concerns. Marian reported working with a filmmaker from Durango who wants to produce a documentary on the Moab project. Wendee said the filmmaker had interviewed Don that morning.

Ken Davey reported that he and Katie Hanway had met with Kirk Briscoe (Moab Site Operations Manager for EnergySolutions) to discuss training for project job openings. Ken said that the State of Utah and College of Eastern Utah can provide training. Employee turnover continues to be very low but when there are openings they are being filled through DWS and EnergySolutions.

Mark Sovine thanked Lee for quick response on his questions.

6. Future Agenda Items – No future agenda items were identified.
7. Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 3:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Shenton, Grand County UMTRA Liaison