

***Moab Tailings Project Stakeholders Committee Meeting***

***June 22, 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)  
Lani Asay, representing Thompson Springs and Crescent Junction  
Danalee Gerber, Grand County Attorney's Office  
Bill Jackson, Grand County Road Department  
Mark Sovine, Grand Water & Sewer Service Agency  
Jeff Troutman, National Park Service  
Lee Shenton, UMTRA Liaison (non-voting staff for MTPSC)

Moab UMTRA Team:

Ed Baker, Ken Pill

Public:

Craig Bigler (Moab Times-Independent), Melinda Brimhall (Grand County Council Administrator),  
John Darke, Sarah Fields

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Co-Chair Bob Greenberg.
2. Review of Minutes of 27-Apr-2010 Meeting – Minutes were adopted with one corrected misspelling and one clarification specifying fiscal year instead of calendar year.
3. Moab UMTRA Project Update (Lee) – 10% (1.6 million tons) of the tailings had been moved to the disposal cell as of mid-June, Phase 2 of the disposal cell is on schedule and the webcams have been activated at both sites. Rail spurs have been extended, allowing more railcars per train and increasing capacity by 5%. First quarter air monitoring results showed that radon, direct gamma radiation and radioparticulates continued above background but still well below the pertinent guidelines. Exceedances for both ammonia and uranium occurred over the winter during the seasonal low flow period but because it was off-season there was no riparian habitat affected. The new wells between the pile and the river are now operational and ground water extraction resumed in May. Annual totals of ground water ammonia and uranium mass removal have declined since the 2006 peak but will likely remain substantial until near project completion. Ken Pill, Lead Hydrogeologist for the project, noted that the decline was more an indication of logistical issues than reduced contamination. Sarah asked if uranium contamination was coming from somewhere other than the tailings pile. Ken said there was some indication of a ground water “uranium plume” from the vicinity of the old ore storage areas and that more focus would be put on mass removal there. Lani asked if any residual radioactive material was being moved by truck on US-191. Ed Baker replied that two truckloads had been sent to Crescent Junction so far and only materials that wouldn't fit in the rail containers.

4. Questions for DOE's Annual Statement (all) – Lee communicated a request from the UMTRA project team for questions to be answered in their Annual Statement of Continued Compliance with the Conditional Use Permit, due within 30 days of July 18. In addition to the required annual summary of work completed, actual and projected number of workers employed, work plan for the coming twelve months and results of air and water quality monitoring, the MTPSC identified additional questions as follows:

- a. How much more UMTRA truck traffic can we expect on US-191? (Mark)
- b. Is there a closer definition of final ground water remediation actions yet? (Jeff)
- c. Have there been any changes in plans for future Moab site disposition? (Bob)
- d. How much UMTRA truck traffic (number of trucks and tonnage) is anticipated at Crescent Junction due to deliveries of cap rock? (Bill)
- e. What efforts are being made to protect the project workers? (Pat)

Bob requested that stakeholders submit any additional questions to Lee by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

5. Extended Project Funding (all) - Lee reported that Ms. Nancy DiPaolo (Assistant Director for Intergovernmental Affairs and Communications, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, Washington, D.C.) visited Moab Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup> to view ARRA (“stimulus”) projects at Arches NP and the Moab UMTRA site. Bob noted that the UMTRA project had benefitted greatly from ARRA funding but that funding will expire in September of next year, the end of FY2011. He mentioned that it had been two and a half years since Grand County elected officials had been to Washington, D.C. to give an update to Congressional delegations so it is time to go again. Bob said “this is a solid project with a talented team; the last thing we want to see is the project slowing down for lack of funding.” Pat added “We have a ‘poster-child’ project here, small enough to be finished quickly and highly visible.” Mark asked if this was good timing for seeking funding. Bob responded that Nancy DiPaolo thought this was exactly the right time in the federal funding cycle. Lee reported that a white paper had been prepared on behalf of Grand County describing the background, risks and current status of the UMTRA project (a copy was handed out to meeting attendees). This white paper has been provided to staffs for Senators Bennett, Hatch and Feinstein, Congressman Matheson, Congresswoman Napolitano (Chairwoman for House Subcommittee on Water and Power), the Colorado River Board of California and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Additional key contacts are being established.

6. Stakeholder Updates

Both Mark and Bill reported that they had difficulty getting enough qualified applicants for recent hiring, which they attributed to so much of the local workforce being employed at the many projects currently underway in Moab (UMTRA, hospital, schools, aquatic center and bridges).

Jeff announced that he is taking a position at Great Smoky Mountains NP (Tennessee and North Carolina) beginning in August so this is his last MTPSC meeting. He will inform Lee about his replacement as soon as he can. The MTPSC thanks him for his valuable service as a member of the committee and the community, and wishes him well in his new position.

Lani thanked Ed and Lee for their actions during the April high wind event and noted that she and residents of Thompson now had a better understanding of the UMTRA rules for shutting down operations to minimize tailings dust. For that event, we learned that the predominant source of airborne dust was excavation of Phase 2 of the disposal cell, not tailings dust. Sarah Fields reported that a Thompson resident told her they were getting insufficient information. Lani suggested that more residents should attend the periodic public meetings being held in Thompson to review project status and air monitoring. Lee reminded the public that his periodic UMTRA reviews are also posted online at [grandcountyutah.net](http://grandcountyutah.net) and [moabtailings.org](http://moabtailings.org), including today's slideshow.

John Darke asked when the first deliverables would occur from the DOE grant. Lee responded that deliverables had been itemized in the County's last two quarterly reports to the DOE as required under the terms of the grant and were publicly available. John asked how we can assure that the County message is being received by congressmen and senators. Bob responded that is the motivation for the upcoming trip to Washington, D.C. John asked how we can be assured that none of the grant money is being used for lobbying. Bob responded that only elected Grand County officials are going to D.C., no lobbyists would be used and the purpose of the trip is to educate congressional delegations and DOE leadership on Grand County viewpoints to help them make informed decisions.

7. Future Agenda Items – No future agenda items were identified.  
**MEETING LOCATION CHANGE FOR AUGUST:** the August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at 3 PM in the **Moab City Council Chambers**.
8. Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 4:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lee Shenton, Grand County UMTRA Liaison