

Moab City Council Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 3/8/24

Title:

Consideration of Approval of Resolution 07-2024: A Resolution Requesting the Transfer of the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Removal Action "UMTRA" Land – Formerly Known as the Atlas Mill Tailings Site – to the City of Moab and Grand County

Presenter: Mayor Joette Langianese

Attachment(s):

Draft Resolution 07-2024
2023 Community Vision Map

Recommended Motion:

I move to approve Resolution 07-2024: A Resolution Requesting the Transfer of the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Removal Action "UMTRA" Land – Formerly Known as the Atlas Mill Tailings Site – to the City of Moab and Grand County

Background/Summary:

Moab City and Grand County have been working closely with the DOE and our congressional delegation for over 20 years to ensure that the Moab UMTRA project is adequately funded and to ensure that the health, safety, and welfare of our community is maintained throughout the project. The county established the Moab Tailings Project Steering Committee to partner with the DOE and provide oversight of the project.

One of the responsibilities of the committee was to plan for the future of the site upon completion. A subcommittee of the MTPSC was established in 2013 to engage with the community in developing a community vision for the site upon completion of the UMTRA project. That vision has been reviewed every 5 years and was approved by both Moab City and Grand County. However, to realize this vision it is imperative that the city and county take ownership of the property once completed.

The UMTRA project is nearing completion and the expected closure of the site to take place by 2029. The City and County have been working closely with our congressional delegation to lobby for annual appropriations to expediate the safe clean up of the site. We also wanted to show the economic benefits to our community once the site has been cleaned and available for future uses. These uses will be restricted due to the nature of the contamination which will require continued oversight from the DOE Office of Legacy Management for many years.

Congressman John Curtis is preparing legislation for congressional approval that will grant ownership to Moab City and Grand County. He has asked for a joint resolution that shows our willingness to take joint ownership of the property once completed. The DOE has also expressed interest in transferring the site to the city and county.

CITY OF MOAB RESOLUTION 07-2024

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE TRANSFER OF THE MOAB URANIUM
MILL TAILINGS REMOVAL ACTION “UMTRA” LAND
– FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE ATLAS MILL TAILINGS SITE –
TO THE CITY OF MOAB AND GRAND COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Moab City, Utah and Grand County, Utah have effectively lobbied for the DOE’s Record of Decision approving the removal and transportation of approximately 16 million tons of uranium tailings from the Atlas Mill Tailings site (“Moab Site”) on the banks of the Colorado River approximately four miles north of Moab, Utah to the planned disposal site near Crescent Junction, Utah (collectively, the “UMTRA Project”);

WHEREAS, in September 2005 the Secretary of the United States Department of Energy, issued the Record of Decision (ROD) for the UMTRA Project;

WHEREAS, the scope of the UMTRA Project, is to relocate 16 million tons of mill tailings that covers approximately 130 acres of the total 480 acre Moab site and other contaminated materials from the former uranium-ore processing facility, known as the Atlas Mill Tailings Site and from off-site properties known as vicinity properties, to an engineered disposal cell constructed near Crescent Junction. The scope also includes active remediation of groundwater at the Moab site;

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management in Grand Junction, Colorado, has primary responsibility for managing the Moab Project;

WHEREAS, Moab City and Grand County elected officials have continued to lobby congress to ensure the UMTRA project has the congressional appropriations necessary to ensure a safe and expedited removal of the contaminated waste from the banks of the Colorado River that has negative impacts on the residents and visitors to the area as well as 40 million downstream water users;

WHEREAS, Moab City and Grand County have developed an ongoing partnership with the DOE prior to the ROD to the present, and aim to continue to work together to facilitate the safe and efficient operation of the UMTRA Project;

WHEREAS, Grand County Council in July 2006 approved a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the UMTRA project and the DOE has provided the County with Continued Compliance Statement on an annual basis since the removal of the contaminated waste commenced;

WHEREAS, Grand County Council established the Moab Tailings Project Steering Committee (MTPSC) for the purposes of partnering with the DOE for successful remediation and communicating local concerns; the MTPSC includes representatives of the Moab City Council and staff, Grand County Council and staff, regional Bureau of Land Management, National Parks Service Southeast Utah Group (SEUG), Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the Grand County Emergency Management, and other interested local, state and federal agencies; the MTPSC meets quarterly to identify and communicate local concerns to the DOE;

WHEREAS, Grand County formalized the MTPSC in 2008 by resolution, as an advisory body to the Grand County Council and hired staff through federal assistance grant to serve as a liaison between the MTPSC and the DOE as a means for open communication and monitoring of the UMTRA Project during its operation and to advise the MTPSC on matters pertaining to the project;

WHEREAS, the MTPSC resolution allows for future planning for uses of the Moab Site and Crescent Junction Site upon completion of the UMTRA Project and the DOE has expressed the desire to transfer the deed restricted property to Moab City and Grand County upon completion of the project;

WHEREAS, the UMTRA Site Futures Committee, which was created as a sub-committee to the MTPSC in 2013, and was tasked with developing a future site plan for the site to be reviewed and updated on a five year basis, the sub-committee has worked with the citizens of Grand County, state and federal public land agencies including the National Park Service SEUG, Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Department of Natural Resources, to create a plan for the use of the UMTRA site once the project is completed and transferred from the DOE Environmental Management to Legacy Management for continued oversight;

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2014 the Initial Community Vision for the site was approved by the Grand County Council through Resolution No. 3015 and by the Moab City Council on January 28, 2014 through Resolution No.11-2014;

WHEREAS, on August 7, 2018, the second Community Vision update was approved by the Grand County Council through Resolution No. 3153 and by the Moab City Council on September 10, 2018 through Resolution No. 42- 2018;

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2023 a 2023 Community Vision update was approved by the Grand County Commission through Resolution No. 3353 and by the Moab City Council on June 27, 2023 through Resolution No.19- 2023;

WHEREAS, the future uses proposed for the Moab UMTRA Project Site would bring about substantial social and economic benefits to residents of and visitors to Moab City and Grand County, Utah; and

1. The Site Futures Committee has completed the 2023 Community Vision update as the second required five-year update following a coordinated public and agency input process and that the MTPSC has endorsed adoption of the 2023 Community Vision update;
2. Both Grand County and Moab City had representation during the process;
3. The MTPSC has properly informed both the Grand County Commission and Moab City Council about the proposed update and endorsed the plan through resolution;
4. The future uses proposed by the Site Futures Committee represent another step towards completion of future planning for the UMTRA site as required in Grand County's Land Use Code through adoption of the 2001 Joint City of Moab/Grand County North Corridor Gateway Plan General Plan Amendment that designated the Moab UMTRA site as a Specially Planned Area (SPA).

WHEREAS, Moab City and Grand County, desire joint ownership of the approximately 480 acres of the UMTRA Moab site and are initiating advance planning efforts which include acquiring, developing, and managing the site to provide a wide range of social, physical, economic, and community-focused amenities.

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2024 the Grand County Commission approved a resolution requesting the UMTRA land transfer to Grand County and Moab City in a public and open meeting.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Moab does hereby support and request that approximately 480 acres of the UMTRA Moab site be transferred to Moab City and Grand County in joint ownership upon completion of the Moab UMTRA Project.

Passed and adopted by action of the Governing Body of the City of Moab in an open session on this day 8th day of March 2024.

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

Joette Langianese, Mayor

Sommar Johnson, Recorder

North Moab Gateway Area - 2023 Community Vision Update Map

Conceptual Facility Locations

