

40-3453

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAND USERS (WALU)

BOX 783
MOAB, UTAH 84532
May 30, 1997

Grand County Council
Courthouse
Moab, Utah 84532

Re: Atlas Tailings Reclamation

Gentlemen:

Enclosed herewith for your perusal is a copy of a resolution being sent to various concerned agencies and individuals expressing reasons for our rationale in supporting in-place reclamation of the Atlas tailings.

We are in complete support of the opinion that this controversial problem be resolved based on facts rather than emotions and politics.

Sincerely,

John E. Keogh

John E. Keogh
Vice President moab, WALU

*Submitted
with RESOLUTION
only.*

*attachments,
(AM) were submitted
with Wharm's
article and the
resolution,*

06-09-97
cc: j.holtkamp
p.thomas
t.thompson
m.friegel

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WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAND USERS (WALU)
BOX 783, MOAB, UTAH 84532

May 29, 1997

United States Senator John McCain,
2400 East Arizona Biltmore Circle, Suite 1150
Phoenix, Arizona 85016

Dear Senator McCain:

We noticed from a May 1, 1997, article in *The Salt Lake Tribune* and recent Internet news that our former Grand County Councilman, Bill Hedden, has prompted you to write letters to the heads of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission asking for "immediate action to protect the (Atlas) tailings pile." We were disappointed that you did not first contact Atlas Corporation before acting on the allegations of such special interest laymen.

Unfortunately, we were not privy to your letters. Nevertheless, as a downstream user of Colorado River water, we thought you might also be interested in our views on this issue. A subject which we feel is being blown out of all proportion by the type of special interest groups that Mr. Hedden represents.

The first thing that you should be aware of is that the Atlas uranium mill tailings is not high-level nuclear waste and should not be treated as such (please see copy of Professor Wrenn's letter to *The Times-Independent* on the subject, attached). The second thing is that what little seepage there is from this pile does not present any significant risk to the environment, or downstream users. Also, any need to mitigate this small amount of seepage, if mitigation is necessary, will be required whether the pile is capped in place or moved to a new location.

The origin of the present "radical" situation can be laid down to the fact that certain of our former local politicians thought that Grand County would greatly benefit economically if these tailings were relocated. The proponents professed there would be many "high-paying" jobs, especially if the project could be forced into "Title I" status. (The Atlas site is a Title II site, which has a responsible owner. Title I sites are sites that do not have a responsible owner wherein the government has to pay 100% of the clean up costs).

Although we would also welcome lots of high-paying jobs in this area, we see the special interest group requests as nothing more than pork barrel spending. With the federal deficit at such alarming levels, true Americans should be more frugal with our money as we can not afford this type of pork! There are literally thousands of better ways to spend our hard-earned tax dollars.

These special interest groups will have you believe that the sky is falling, if it will help their causes! Don't be fooled by them! Our present system is working very well. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which is assigned to make the necessary decisions in accordance with the safety and environmental laws is doing an excellent job, which may be contrary to what some alarmists will have you believe.

We enclose a copy of WALU's RESOLUTION on this issue. It expresses the "common-sense" views of our members, many of whom are more competent than the special interest groups, because they have actually worked in the nuclear industry for many years.

In addition to the items mentioned in our resolution, there are many other reasons for our beliefs, that are beyond simply saving the unnecessary expenditure of our tax dollars. The following are some of them:

- (1) Moving 12 million tons of tailings 14 miles up Highway 191 will be a "catastrophe" to our tourist industry. The possible adverse effect of this has not been properly thought out by anyone yet. It should be, before and if ever there is any decision to move these tailings to a new location; and, this should not be at Atlas' expense! It should rather be at the expense of the activists, or special interest groups! We should force these groups to come into the open and let us know what their real reasons are for their apparent crusade.
- (2) Atlas Corporation has been a "good citizen" since 1962. The "do-good newcomers" have no idea (and do not care) how much good this company did for Moab. This fact should be recognized and respected. Atlas should not be forced into bankruptcy by unreasonable special interest people, merely because it *may* be good for aesthetics, or the site *might* be good for an NPS staging area, etc. One must remember that it was the federal government that chose this present site, not Atlas Corporation.
- (3) You should be aware that the activists stirring up all the trouble against Atlas are not truly sincere, and apparently have no interest in any of the facts that Atlas has tried to present them with since the NRC took the unprecedented step of withdrawing their FONSI (Finding Of No Significant Impact) in 1993. It may also be important for you to know that few of Atlas' main detractors even attended a meeting that was prepared especially for them and to answer their questions on March 19, 1996, in which Atlas brought in all of their consultants at great expense. Only two or three activists showed up! The reasons some of the more vocal activists gave for not attending varied from "there was some important ball game on TV" to "they could not find baby sitters"!

If you have any questions, or need more information, please contact us.

Sincerely,


Jerry Stocks, President

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAND USERS (WALU)
BOX 783, MOAB, UTAH 84532

May 29, 1997

United States Senator Orrin Hatch,
8402 Federal Building,
125 South State Street,
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

Dear Senator Hatch:

We enclose a copy of our RESOLUTION on the Atlas tailings situation, which we hope is self-explanatory. It expresses the "common-sense" views of our members, some of whom are more competent than the special interest groups, mainly because many of our members have actually worked in the uranium industry for many years.

Your request of NRC in 1993 to prepare a new EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) may have been warranted, as there certainly seemed to be enough outcry for more studies at the time. However, your request is only truly justified if NRC is allowed to act on its new findings.

Since then, NRC has completed its Technical Evaluation Report (TER), based on new studies provided by Atlas Corporation, and is now in its last stage of finishing a final EIS. As you are aware, all of the technical studies required for EIS preparation and NRC staff evaluation has been totally funded by Atlas and the American taxpayer through the Title X reimbursement program. Unfortunately, all of this effort has still not provided a final resolution because various special interest groups seem to be intent on disagreeing with NRC's findings, as indicated by their continued *crusade* on the issue.

By crusade, we are referring to the scare tactics that are presently being used by these people over the Internet and in the other news media: "Senator May Have Clout to Move Toxic Dump Away From Moab" (referring to Sen. McCain), "...the tailings are a threat to the Colorado River and downstream ecosystems...", "...Lake Powell, which could become contaminated by the Atlas radioactive tailings," etcetera, etcetera. To be frank, this is nothing more than rubbish! Why are these people really doing this? Is there some hidden agenda that we unaware of?

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If the foes of the Atlas/NRC plan for the safe in-place reclamation of these tailings are truly concerned about its effect on the public health and the environment, why are they downplaying this last point? Why are they totally unconcerned about delaying the project, which results in continued unnecessary rainwater recharge into the pile (and the underlying groundwater) and the unnecessary additional radon emissions to the public that is caused by delays (and, if the pile is moved)?

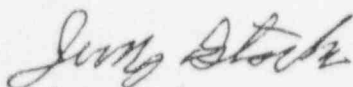
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Although we also welcome high-paying jobs in Grand County, we see the special interest group requests as nothing more than pork barrel spending. With the federal deficit at such an alarming level, how can true Americans force such spending on the taxpayer while simultaneously forcing draconian cost-cutting measures elsewhere! There are thousands of better ways to spend our hard-earned money.

Remember, these special interest groups will have you believe that the sky is falling if it will help their cause! Don't be fooled by them! Contrary to what some alarmists will make you believe, our present system is working very well. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which is assigned to making the necessary decisions in accordance with our safety and environmental laws, is doing an excellent job. Therefore, until we can see some concrete evidence to indicate otherwise, we stand firmly by our position of supporting the NRC and Atlas Corporation.

In addition, there are many other reasons for our beliefs that are beyond simply saving the unnecessary spending of our taxes. If this interests to you, please contact us.

Sincerely,



Jerry Stocks,
President, WALU

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAND USERS (WALU)
BOX 783, MOAB, UTAH 84532

May 29, 1997

United States Senator Robert F. Bennett,
4225 Federal Building
125 South State Street,
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

Dear Senator Bennett:

We enclose a copy of our RESOLUTION on the Atlas tailings situation, which we hope is self-explanatory. It expresses the "common-sense" views of our members, some of whom are much more competent than the special interest groups because many of our members have indeed worked in the uranium industry for many years.

At Senator Hatch's request for a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) took the unprecedented step of withdrawing its finding of no significant impact (FONSI) in 1993. Since then, NRC has completed its Technical Evaluation Report (TER), based on new studies provided by Atlas Corporation, and is now in the final stage of writing the new EIS. As you know, all of the studies required for the EIS preparation and NRC staff evaluation is totally funded by Atlas Corporation and the American taxpayer through the Title X reimbursement program. Unfortunately, all of this effort is still not providing final resolution because special interest groups seem intent on disagreeing with NRC's findings, as indicated by their apparent ongoing crusade.

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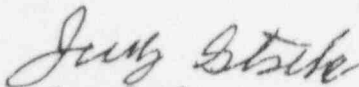
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Sincerely,



Jerry Stocks,
President, WALU

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAND USERS (WALU)
BOX 783, MOAB, UTAH 84532

May 29, 1997

U. S. Congressman James V. Hansen,
1017 Federal Building,
324 25th Street,
Ogden, Utah 84401

Dear Congressman Hansen:

We enclose a copy of our RESOLUTION on the Atlas tailings situation, which we hope is self-explanatory. It expresses the "common-sense" views of our members, some of whom are much more competent than the special interest groups because many of our members have indeed worked in the uranium industry for many years.

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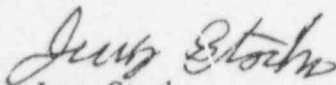
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Jerry Stocks,
President, WALU

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAND USERS (WALU)
BOX 783, MOAB, UTAH 84532

May 29, 1997

U. S. Congressman Merrill Cook,
2311 Federal Building,
125 South State Street,
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

Dear Congressman Cook:

We enclose a copy of our RESOLUTION on the Atlas tailings situation, which we hope is self-explanatory. It expresses the "common-sense" views of our members, some of whom are much more competent than the special interest groups because many of our members have indeed worked in the uranium industry for many years.

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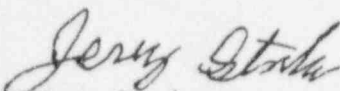
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Jerry Stocks,
President, WALU

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAND USERS (WALU)
BOX 783, MOAB, UTAH 84532

May 29, 1997

U. S. Congressman Chris Cannon,
51 South University Avenue, Suite 317,
Provo, Utah 84601

Dear Congressman Cannon:

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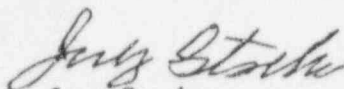
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Jerry Stocks,
President, WALU

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAND USERS (WALU)
BOX 783, MOAB, UTAH 84532

May 29, 1997

Governor Michael O. Leavitt,
210 State Capitol Building,
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Governor Leavitt:

We enclose a copy of our RESOLUTION on the Atlas tailings situation, which we hope is self-explanatory. It expresses the "common-sense" views of our members, some of whom are much more competent than the special interest groups because many of our members have indeed worked in the uranium industry for many years.

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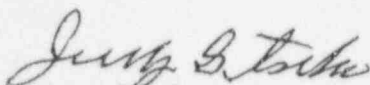
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Jerry Stocks,
President, WALU

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAND USERS (WALU)
BOX 783, MOAB, UTAH 84532

May 29, 1997

Utah Senator Mike Dmitrich,
566 North Dover Circle
Price, Utah 84501

Dear Senator Dmitrich:

We enclose a copy of our RESOLUTION on the Atlas tailings situation, which we hope is self-explanatory. It expresses the "common-sense" views of our members, some of whom are much more competent than the special interest groups because many of our members have indeed worked in the uranium industry for many years.

At Senator Hatch's request for a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) took the unprecedented step of withdrawing its finding of no significant impact (FONSI) in 1993. Since then, NRC has completed its Technical Evaluation Report (TER), based on new studies provided by Atlas Corporation, and is now in the final stage of writing the new EIS. As you know, all of the studies required for the EIS preparation and NRC staff evaluation is totally funded by Atlas Corporation and the American taxpayer through the Title X reimbursement program. Unfortunately, all of this effort is still not providing final resolution because special interest groups seem intent on disagreeing with NRC's findings, as indicated by their apparent ongoing crusade.

By crusade, we are referring to the scare tactics that are presently being used by these people over the Internet and in the other news media: "Senator May Have Clout to Move Toxic Dump Away From Moab" (referring to Sen. McCain), "...the tailings are a threat to the Colorado River and downstream ecosystems...", "...Lake Powell, which could become contaminated by the Atlas radioactive tailings," etcetera, etcetera. To be frank, this is nothing more than rubbish! Why are these people really doing this? Is there some hidden agenda that we are unaware of?

The first thing that you should be aware of, as a responsible representative of the people, is that the Atlas uranium mill tailings is not high-level nuclear waste and should not be treated as such (please see copy of Professor Wrenn's letter to *The Times-Independent* on the subject, attached). The second thing is that what little seepage there is from this pile does not present any significant risk to the environment, or downstream users, as some of the more radical "environmental" groups will have you believe. Also, any need to mitigate this small amount of seepage, if mitigation is necessary, will be required whether the pile is capped in place or moved to a new site.

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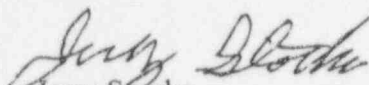
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In addition, there are many other reasons for our beliefs that are beyond simply saving the unnecessary spending of our taxes. If this interests to you, please contact us.

Sincerely,


Jerry Stocks,
President, WALU

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAND USERS (WALU)
BOX 783, MOAB, UTAH 84532

May 29, 1997

Utah Representative Keele Johnson,
730 North 300 West,
Blanding, Utah 84511

Dear Representative Johnson:

We enclose a copy of our RESOLUTION on the Atlas tailings situation, which we hope is self-explanatory. It expresses the "common-sense" views of our members, some of whom are much more competent than the special interest groups because many of our members have indeed worked in the uranium industry for many years.

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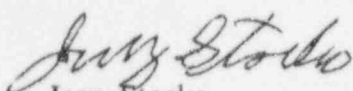
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Sincerely,



Jerry Stocks,
President, WALU

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAND USERS (WALU)
BOX 783, MOAB, UTAH 84532

May 29, 1997

Mr. Tom Bingham, President,
Utah Mining Association,
135 South Main Street, Suite 825,
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1627

Dear Mr. Bingham:

We enclose a copy of our RESOLUTION on the Atlas tailings situation, which we hope is self-explanatory. It expresses the "common-sense" views of our members, some of whom are much more competent than the special interest groups because many of our members have indeed worked in the uranium industry for many years.

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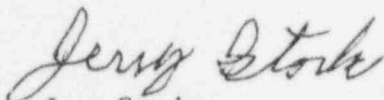
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Sincerely,



Jerry Stocks,
President, WALU

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAND USERS (WALU)
BOX 783, MOAB, UTAH 84532

May 29, 1997

Utah Manufacturer's Association,
170 South Main Street, Suite 1125,
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1605

Dear Sir:

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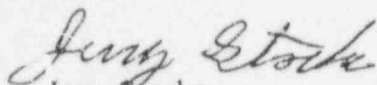
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Jerry Stocks,
President, WALU

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAND USERS (WALU)
BOX 783, MOAB, UTAH 84532

May 29, 1997

Utah Taxpayer's Association,
1578 1700 South, Suite 201
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104-3470

Dear Sir:

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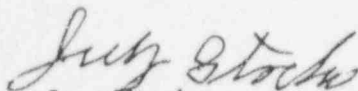
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Jerry Stocks,
President, WALU



Opinions and comments from our readers . . .

An expert speaks up . . .

Dear Sam:

I am an internationally known expert in radiological health and radiation protection and, since I live in Moab, I felt compelled to respond to Peter Haney's advertisement in last week's paper.

Mr. Haney apparently believes the Atlas tailings are high level radioactive waste and are extremely dangerous. This is not true.

The tailings are less radioactive than the naturally occurring ore from which they were derived and they should not be treated as a source of imminent hazard, which they are not.

Substantial human populations live without any ill effects in areas of the world where the natural levels of radiation are as high as those directly over the Atlas pile.

Mr. Haney implies the NRC did not analyze the consequences of the tailings pile being eroded into the Colorado River. His implication is untrue as the consequences of the pile being released to the river is analyzed on page 4-27ff of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (NUREG 1531).

The natural radioactivity in the suspended sediments flowing down the Colorado River in a thousand years, containing the same radioactive elements found in the Atlas tailings pile, exceeds that which is in the Atlas tailings pile. The mass of suspended sediments flowing by the pile in a year exceeds the total mass of the pile.

I have measured the radioactivity over several tailings piles, including Atlas', and there is nothing unusually high about the Atlas tailings.

I have no financial connection with Atlas Corporation, although I have been frequently called upon to do consulting work for a variety of clients including the U. S. Department of Justice, the Canadian Atomic Energy Control Board and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

However, I do have a financial stake in Moab as the owner of the Sunset Motel and I support Bob Pattison's position that the unnecessary expense of \$100 million for moving the pile would

not have health or environmental benefits commensurate with the cost.

I have read the relevant NRC documents in our public library and conclude that the current pile location will produce no significant exposure to any single person in Moab relative to internationally accepted radiation protection standards or the natural background radiation levels here, either now or in the future.

Mr. Haney's last paragraph is devoid of any quantitative judgment or reasoning. He only wants the pile removed, without reasonable justification. As the owner of a local business I, and some of my employees, are more afraid of Mr. Haney's influence than that of the Atlas tailings pile!

Concerning his educational background, what special training does Mr. Haney have to disapprove of the ability of the NRC scientists and engineers to make valid and complex technical judgments?

When he says: "...what will happen in 500 years..." he hypothesizes a farm over the former Lake Powell. I point out the fact that a farming town in Brazil is built over a naturally occurring uranium deposit where the local population shows no ill effects from eating the food grown upon it; food that is fit for human consumption.

A similar situation exists over an even larger area in India, where 100,000 people are exposed to 2 roentgen per year of external radiation from naturally occurring thorium and its daughter products in the underlying soil, without any apparent ill effects.

When Peter Haney says that the pile will end up in the river, I ask "what will be the consequences?" as it will be buried under tons of sediment where it can not expose anyone significantly. The river can only dilute the tailings, not concentrate them, whether they flush by slow erosion or by flash floods.

Respectfully submitted,

McDonald E. Wrenn, Ph. D.
Professor of Pharmacology,
University of Utah and Adjunct
Professor of Physics and
Biology, Mesa State College,
Grand Junction, Colorado

Volunteers were appreciated . . .

Dear Sam:

the busy congestion between traf-

It's my turn on arena talk . . .

Dear Sam,

Eighteen months ago I moved to Moab, not for the scenery or recreational opportunities, (I was leaving a similar area), but for a challenge few people were interested in taking on professionally.

That challenge was to make the county fairgrounds complex, (Spanish Trail Arena), active enough to be a profitable county facility.

Even before starting the job I saw the biggest challenge would be to soften the hostility some residents had toward the facility, because if locals didn't appreciate the facility, they certainly would not send visitors to the arena to see an event, and neither would the locals.

Certainly my job has been hampered to attract producers of events due to the negative reactions these people receive when they do advance work prior to their event. Many have changed their minds after coming across the wrong people.

I have worked hard to diversify the types of people using the facility so when I hear people say it is only a horse facility and that is all it will be, it is a statement without fact.

Activities such as the BMX Race Series, Indoor Soccer League, along with events like the Tour of Canyonlands, Jeep Safari, demolition derbys, Fat Tire Festival, movie productions

and even the fair. All numbers their loud majority.

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Letters to the editor policy

The Times-Independent welcomes opinions from subject pertinent to Southeastern Utah. Letters should include the writer's name, address and telephone number. Letters are subject to editing and may be used to replace advertisements. Cards of Thank you to a particular event. Letters to the editor should be signed, or if unsigned, of a libelous or defamatory statements will not be considered for publication. Letters should be typed or legibly written, and be 800 words or less. Mail to "Letter to the Editor," P.O. Box 1000, Moab, UT 84254. Line is Tuesday before 12 noon.

ORCH
ON FIFTH WEST Moab, UT
801-259-7175 • 800-634-07
TOWN HOMES With C

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAND USERS (WALU)
BOX 783, MOAB, UTAH 84532

May 27, 1997

SUBJECT: Should the Atlas Corporation uranium mill tailings pile located at Moab, Utah be capped in place or relocated?

WALU held their regular monthly meeting on Monday May 12, 1997, and, after broad discussion and debate, directed that the following resolution be drafted and forwarded to the appropriate elected officials. The twenty people in attendance voted unanimously to cap the tailings pile in place.

The following points summarize our discussions on the subject at our meeting:

- *Why is the NRC decision to cap the Atlas tailings pile in place being questioned and disputed?*
- *Why are the Atlas Corporation studies, that indicate that the tailings should be safely capped in place, being questioned and renounced?*
- *Is the present system of environmental law breaking down? Is it proving to be unworkable when a responsible company such as Atlas Corporation, after obeying all regulations, acting in good faith by posting a multi-million dollar bond and spending millions of dollars on extra scientific studies, has to be rewarded by an adverse publicity campaign and confronted with legal action by special interest groups that threaten to bankrupt them?*
- *Why is a legal and public relations campaign, that has the appearance of a crusade, being conducted to move the tailings pile? Is truth being sought, or is the campaign based on some sort of covert special interest political and economic agenda?*
- *Why are the special interest groups pursuing panic-inducing scenarios (unbacked by objective science) that falsely indicate that capping in place is unsafe?*
- *In the absence of solid scientific and objective evidence, is the political and local economic motive sufficient reason to move the tailings, or is it just a gross waste of taxpayer dollars?*
- *Are past Grand County officials, the State of Utah, and special interest groups justified in spending an extra \$100 million, or more, of our hard-earned federal tax dollars in moving the tailings to benefit Moab's economy?*

To our knowledge, the following reasons were presented by Atlas' detractors for moving the pile to a new location. We openly and objectively address these reasons here:

1. It would economically benefit Grand County and create jobs.

We agree that this is possible. However, this is just an allegation. Our investigation into the decommissioning work and the interim tailings cover work recently completed by Atlas indicates that this will not have much impact on the local economy as Atlas was able to hire only one local qualified person in their recent completion of this program, in spite of the work being well advertised through "Job Service," etc. This temporary work had to be done by "outsiders."

Therefore, we do not see this point as a valid argument to warrant moving the tailings to a new location and the unnecessary spending of millions of extra taxpayer dollars.

2. It would provide an unimpeded view of Moab when people are driving into town from the north, especially at night.

We agree that this is possible. However, it should not be a reason to spend many millions of extra taxpayer dollars. Moreover, if the pile is reclaimed in place, the view from the north will be less impeded than it presently is because the in-place reclamation plan calls for the pile to be lower.

Therefore, we do not see this point as a valid argument to warrant moving the tailings to a new location and the unnecessary spending of millions of extra taxpayer dollars.

3. It frees up the privately owned Atlas Corporation land.

We do not agree. Atlas owns the land, not Grand County, or the special interest groups. It is therefore Atlas' decision as to what is done with it; at least that portion of it that does not have to be regulated by the government. In addition, if the tailings are moved, and, due to the more exacting standards that will be required for ground water clean up before the land can be released for unrestricted use, it is unlikely that Atlas' land will be released by the government very soon; perhaps not for 50-100 years.

Therefore, we do not see this point as a valid argument to warrant moving the tailings to a new location and the unnecessary spending of millions of extra taxpayer dollars.

4. It will relieve the minds of people that are reacting to the panic-induced scenarios that are being spread about by special interest organizations and people.

This is possible, because these people are neither trained in radiation safety nor understand the nature of radioactivity. However, we believe that nothing will relieve the minds of the special interest groups.

Therefore, we do not see this point as a valid argument to warrant moving the tailings to a new location and the unnecessary spending of millions of extra taxpayer dollars.

5. The river pollution will affect 18 million downstream users

We do not agree with this statement. We think this is merely "scare tactics" used by Atlas' detractors and is simply not true. If Atlas' detractors had bothered to take the time to study the detailed technical reports they would have discovered that there is nothing for the public to worry about on the potential for river pollution. Whether the pile is reclaimed in place, or it is moved, the only constituent in the river that may possibly be caused by the Atlas operation is ammonia. This is the only constituent that is above the Utah State water quality standard, and is only above this standard at extremely low river water flows. Moreover, it only affects a small area within a mile of the plant known as the "mixing zone". At normal river flow rates it is unlikely that ANY pollutant exceeds the Utah State, or the EPA, drinking water standards!

Therefore, we do not see this point as a valid argument to warrant moving the tailings to a new location and the unnecessary spending of millions of extra taxpayer dollars.

6. The pile is sitting on an active earthquake fault

Not true.

Therefore, we do not see this point as a valid argument to warrant moving the tailings to a new location and the unnecessary spending of millions of extra taxpayer dollars.

7. The pile will be "washed" down the Colorado River under the worst flood conditions

Untrue, because, under the worst flood flow conditions (the design flood, known as the Probable Maximum Flood, or PMF -- which is about five times the size and intensity of the 100-year flood), the river between the bridge (upstream) and the portal (downstream) acts like a lake. Thus, under such conditions of tranquil flow there are insufficient natural forces to cause any problem. In other words, it is impossible for the tailings to be "washed down the river" as claimed by Atlas' detractors.

[Notwithstanding this fact, the public should be aware that many "uranium orebodies" have already been washed down the river by nature in the geologic past without any ill effect. Only, these "natural deposits" included the uranium. The public should also be aware that, even if it were possible to wash the tailings pile down the river, it would not be a major problem as, in addition to the "uranium orebodies" that already exist in the Colorado river, a commercial uranium mill tailings pile also exists in Lake Powell that is apparently of no concern. The reason this is not of concern is that the radon flux (the main reason for the NRC regulations) is effectively attenuated by water, dust (of course) is nonexistent, and the gamma radiation is attenuated to background by a few feet depth of water. Nevertheless, Atlas is not allowed to push the pile into the river, because it is against the law!].

Therefore, we do not see this point as a valid argument to warrant moving the tailings to a new location and the unnecessary spending of millions of extra taxpayer dollars.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CAPPING THE ATLAS TAILINGS PILE IN PLACE

WHEREAS: The case for moving the tailings is weak and ignores scientific evidence and expertise that has gone into analyzing the problem.

WHEREAS: Moving the tailings pile would create an additional tailings site to monitor, as well as the one present site.

WHEREAS: Moving the tailings pile will considerably increase the dust and radiation (mainly radon) that will be released into the atmosphere and thus considerably increasing the health risks to the public.

WHEREAS: Objective, reasonable science by experts in this business indicate that capping the tailings in place is the best option for protecting the publics' health and equally as good for protecting the environment and wildlife.

WHEREAS: The tailings pile should be capped in place as soon as possible to prevent further rainwater infiltration from entering the pile (and thus the underlying ground water) and to prevent any more unnecessary radon releases.

WHEREAS: There is a danger that moving the tailings will bankrupt Atlas Corporation and deprive the nation of the commerce and taxes that such corporations provide.

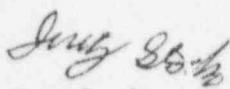
WHEREAS: Moving the tailings, in spite of the expert evidence to relieve some peoples' unfounded fears, would increase the burden on the United States taxpayer unnecessarily and it would be bad government.

WHEREAS: Capping the tailings pile in place is the most economical. The cost of capping the tailings pile in place is estimated at \$15 million versus moving the tailings for \$115 million dollars, if the work is managed by the owner (Atlas Corporation).

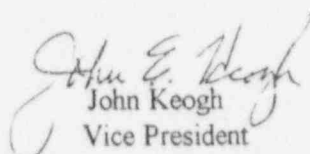
[If the work of moving the tailings has to be managed by the government under Title I conditions, the cost for moving will be closer to the \$500 to \$800 million dollar range!]

THEREFORE: After considering the pro's and con's of moving the Atlas tailings pile the WALU members in attendance at the meeting determined that there were insufficient grounds to move the Atlas tailings pile to a new location.

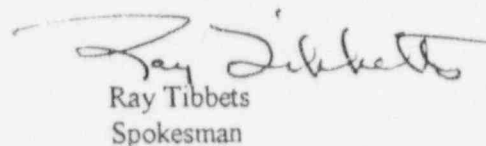
BE IT RESOLVED: That WALU believes that capping the tailings pile in place, based upon objective science, human health, environment, wildlife and safety considerations, is the most reasonable option. For practical and economic reasons, the tailings pile should therefore be capped in place as soon as possible, at minimum expense to Atlas Corporation and the taxpayer.



Jerry Stocks
President



John Keogh
Vice President



Ray Tibbets
Spokesman

cc: Grand County Council members
Utah Senator Mike Dmitrich
Utah Representative Keele Johnson
U.S. Congressmen Hansen, Cannon and Cooke,
U.S. Senators Hatch, Bennett
Utah Governor Leavitt
Southeastern Utah Association of Governments, Bill Howell.
Senator McCain, Arizona
Utah Mining Association
Utah Manufacturing Association
Utah Taxpayers Association
Atlas Corporation
Nuclear Regulatory Commission