

Plan of Development for Proposed Water Load-out Facility on SR-279 (Potash Rd.)

Applicant: Grand County

Authorized Applicant Representative: Zacharia Levine, Community Development Director

Description of Facility and Right-of-Way Location

The Grand County Council has authorized submission of this application for the purposes of constructing a water load out facility on SR-279 (Potash Rd.), which is on the north side of the Colorado River. A new water load out facility would serve multiple user groups (Grand County Road Department, private construction companies, and the oil and gas industry) that currently extract water from an existing load out facility located at the Moab Boat Ramp or from the Moab City culinary water facility. Grand County and Moab City aim to reduce non-essential culinary water extractions for industrial uses, create a safer environment at the Moab Boat Ramp, and minimize the use of residential roads (mainly 500 West and 400 North) by water trucks.

The facility, approximately located at MP 13.7 (see attached maps), consists of a graded gravel loop adjacent to the road, pump and standpipe (at the gravel loop), and 6" HDPE pipeline to the river. It will be approximately 1 acre in size when including the truck turnout and 20' pipeline right of way to the river (to be used for installation and maintenance). This proposal involves new construction of the truck turnout. The load out facility will exist in perpetuity or until it is no longer needed. At this stage, permanent structures are not planned. The only structural improvements include anchoring for the water pump stand and pipeline access to the river. The facility will be used year-round, weather permitting. Daily traffic volumes may range from 0 to 20 trucks, with an ADT of 2 in the winter and 12 in the summer. Although the proposed site exists within a recreation corridor, it is the only feasible location for a water load out facility along the Colorado River near Moab. The proposed site is not currently used for recreation or cultural purposes.

Facility Design Factors

Engineering and design plans accompany this plan of development. Grand County contracted with Horrocks Engineers, its engineer of record, to create the facility design specifications.

Additional Components

As noted in the engineering plans, there exists some cut-and-fill material needs. All cut material on-site will be used as fill-material where needed. Road base material will be provided by Grand County. If, in the future, the level of use warrants permanent construction of a load out facility or improvements to the gravel truck turnout, Grand County will assume responsibility for upgrading the facility. Equipment used during construction of the facility will remain on-site until completion and removed thereafter.

Government Agencies Involved

Grand County understands the need to comply with BLM, DNR/FWS, FFSL, and UDOT. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has designated the BLM as its coordinating agency for this application. A letter from the USACE accompanies this plan of development. We have communicated with the utility provider and will ensure the load out facility does not threaten their power poles or lines. A general

permit has also been filed with the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands. A UDOT access approval is needed – the region coordinator has provided verbal approval of the conceptual drawing.

Construction of Facilities

Construction of the proposed water facility will involve clearing and grading land adjacent to SR-279 (Potash Rd.). Prior to construction, the site will be staked and flagged, and protective measures will be taken to prevent damage to Rocky Mountain Power's utility poles. During construction, signs will be placed north and south of the site to alert drivers to construction activity. An estimated work force of 5 people, 3 trucks, and 1 bulldozer will be needed to construct the truck turnout and pipeline right-of-way.

Resource Values and Environmental Concerns

The proposed site is within a BLM recreation corridor and southwest of the DOE UMTRA site. The proposed site is not currently used for recreation or cultural purposes, and the facility would not disrupt nearby recreational activities in the corridor. The proposed facility will not create new conflicts with resources or public safety. In fact, it will improve safety and reduce conflicts at the existing Moab Boat Ramp. The County recognizes the need to protect endangered and threatened species in the Colorado River, so design and engineering will take into account recommendations provided by Fish and Wildlife Services. At a minimum, the water intake will be placed in a deep, higher flow area and include a screen to protect fish.

Stabilization and Rehabilitation

Vegetation removed from the proposed site will be transported to the Moab City waste facility. Soil will not be removed from the site.

Operation and Maintenance

The proposed water load out facility will require minimal maintenance provided by the Grand County Roads Department. Signs indicating that trucks will be entering SR-279 (Potash Rd.) will be placed north and south of the proposed site.

Termination and Restoration

If termination is deemed necessary, the water load out facility will be vacated by removing gravel from the truck turnout. The pipeline right-of-way will be revegetated with native species of shrubs and trees, although that is likely to occur naturally upon vacating the site. No permanent structures will be left in place. Stabilization of the stream banks will be accomplished through planting of native riparian vegetation.