

Wayland, Joshua

From: Wayland, Joshua
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 4:19 PM
To: Raphael Cordray; Utah Tar Sands Resistance
Cc: Rutson, Vicki; Rogers, Debra
Subject: RE: Attention: Environmental filing, Docket No. FD 36284 meetings inaccessible to the public
Attachments: UBR_EIS_DEIS_OnlinePublicMeeting_Instructions.pdf

Raphael,

Thank you for letting me know about your concern regarding access to the online public meetings for the Uinta Basin Railway Draft EIS. As I mentioned in my email yesterday, there is no requirement to pre-register to attend the online public meetings. Instructions for attending any meeting can be found on the project website at www.uintabasinrailwayeis.com. The pre-registration through Eventbrite is to allow us to get a sense of how many people may be attending ahead of time and to prepare the list of pre-registered commenters to call on, similar to a sign-in sheet at an in-person public meeting. The process for actually accessing the meeting, however, is the same regardless of whether or not someone decided to pre-register in advance. I am glad that you have been able to attend both meetings so far without any issues. If you do know of anyone who is having trouble accessing a meeting, I would greatly appreciate it if you could pass along the attached instructions document or point them to it on the project website. Alternatively, please feel free to give them my contact information and I will do whatever I can to assist them. Again, thank you very much for your participation in these meetings so far. I know this online format is a big change for people who are used to an in-person format, but we will continue to do our best to provide an open and accessible forum for everyone to be heard.

Best,
 Josh

Joshua Wayland, PhD
 Environmental Protection Specialist
 Office of Environmental Analysis
 Surface Transportation Board
 202.245.0330

From: Raphael Cordray <craphaelc@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 2:28 PM
To: Wayland, Joshua <Joshua.Wayland@stb.gov>; Utah Tar Sands Resistance <utahtarsandsresistance@gmail.com>
Subject: Attention: Environmental filing, Docket No. FD 36284 meetings inaccessible to the public

Utah Tar Sands Resistance.
 Cathryn Raphael Cordray
 4187 so Neptune dr
 Millcreek Utah 84124
craphaelc@gmail.com
www.tarsandsresist.org

November 19, 2020

Joshua Wayland, Surface Transportation Board,
9300 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22031,
Attention: Environmental filing,
Docket No. FD 36284

Subject: Request for the re-notice and reschedule of public meetings for the Uinta Basin Railroad (UBRY) draft eis presentation and comment opportunity.

Dear Mr Wayland

I am writing to you personally and on behalf of Utah Tar Sands Resistance (UTSR) and behalf our members to request that your office remove the eventbrite barrier for the UBRY public meetings and reschedule the 3 meetings this week which have been blocked by the failure of eventbrite to allow registration up to 60 minutes before the actual start of the meeting.

Please remove the registration barrier from the meetings scheduled for nov 30, dec 1 and 3 and provide instructions on how to join the meeting without the registration on the eventbrite page you are sending people to. Currently this page functions as a dead end for anyone who arrives on that page and wants to join a meeting one hour before and all during the meeting by indicating that "sales have ended" for the meeting in progress. This is extremely misleading and possibly in violation of the rights of the public.

The OEA has no way to determine how many participants have already been thwarted from meaningful participation in the meeting held on Monday afternoon and the meeting on Wednesday morning. I was able to attend both meetings however I had to take additional steps to join because eventbrite said the meeting was closed. I know of others who were unable to get in and did not know how to contact you and get access al be it late.

It seems that very few people were actually able to join the meeting on either day, this is remarkable considering how many folks are interested and can use zoom. I know that folks were deterred by the message on eventbrite.

The fact that your web page directs people to a page that tells them the meeting is closed well before and during the entire meeting is alarming when the actual meeting is full of dead air and there is ample time for comments and participation contrary to the message on eventbrite.

Your office is creating a false impression that people are not interested in these meetings. Further your zoom meetings are unnecessarily restricted by not allowing the public to see the participants and the number of attendees in realtime is also deceptive. I have attended several public meetings for state agencies and I know that accommodations can easily be made to show the number of participants and to get participants to register without eventbrite.

I have already requested an extension of the dec 14 deadline into feb 14, 2021. I reiterate the need to extend based on the problems created by your use of eventbrite as the way you tell people to access the meetings.

Considering these concerns I must urge you to extend the DEIS comment period up to and including Feb 14, 2021 and request you hold additional public meetings on the DEIS in January or February 2021.

Thank you for your consideration,
Raphael Cordray,
Utah Tar Sands Resistance

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Feminists are trying to destroy a sex hierarchy, a race hierarchy, an

economic hierarchy, in which women are hurt, are disempowered, and in which society celebrates cruelty over us and refuses us the integrity of our own bodies and the dignity of our own lives.

-Andrea Dworkin

A political resistance goes on day and night, under cover and over ground, where people can see it and where people can't. It is passed from generation to generation. It is taught. It is encouraged. It is celebrated. It is smart. It is savvy. It is committed. And someday it will win. It will win.

-Andrea Dworkin



Uinta Basin Railway Draft EIS Online Public Meeting Instructions and Access Information

The Surface Transportation Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will hold six online public meetings to allow members of the public to learn about the Uinta Basin Railway Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) and provide oral public comments. OEA will begin each online meeting with an overview of the proposed project and the environmental review process, including a summary of Draft EIS conclusions, followed by a facilitated comment session for individuals interested in making oral comments.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure the safety of all participants, all public meetings will be held online using Zoom.

The public meetings will be held on the following dates and times. The content will be the same at all online public meetings.

- November 16, 2020, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. MST
- November 18, 2020, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. MST
- November 19, 2020, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. MST
- November 30, 2020, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. MST
- December 1, 2020, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. MST
- December 3, 2020, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. MST

Please review the instructions and tips in advance of the online public meeting.

ONLINE PUBLIC MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

- Prior to the meeting, **please access the Zoom link above and download any needed software.** This may take a few minutes, so it is best to download software in advance of the meeting.
- If you represent an organization, please provide the organization name in parentheses after your last name when logging on to the meeting.
- All lines will be muted upon entry and individual video feeds will not be permitted.
- The meeting facilitator will call upon pre-registered commenters in the order in which they pre-registered. Individuals who did not pre-register but would like to make oral comments will be called upon if time allows.
- If you need assistance during the online public meeting, please use the chat function to send a note to the meeting host. For call-in only users, press *9 to raise your hand.
- To hear audio when connecting through the Zoom link, please make sure the volume on your computer speakers is on and that you do not have any programs with audio features

(e.g., Skype, Pandora, YouTube) open that may interfere with the online public meeting audio.

- Your individual internet connection and bandwidth usage may impact your viewing experience during the online public meeting. It is best to close all other applications (i.e. Outlook) and limit streaming or downloads during the online public meeting.
- By joining any online meeting, participants agree to not use inappropriate or threatening language or discussion.
- Participants using inappropriate or threatening language will be muted, given instructions to refrain from doing so, and provided another opportunity to participate in the meeting. Upon a second violation, the meeting facilitator will remove the participant from the meeting.

ONLINE PUBLIC MEETING ACCESS INFORMATION:

- Connect using the Zoom link below:
 - o <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87481496515>
 - o Password: DEIS2020
- Or join by phone:
 - o 1-877-853-5247
 - o Meeting ID: 874 8149 6515
 - o Meeting Password: 05649357

To ensure OEA has sufficient time to consider public input in the preparation of the Final EIS, comments on the Draft EIS must be submitted by the close of the comment period on **December 14, 2020**.

Comments can be submitted electronically on the Board-sponsored public website at www.untabasinrailwayeis.com, or by mail to: Joshua Wayland, PhD, Surface Transportation Board, c/o ICF, 9300 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA, 22031, Attn: Environmental Filing, Docket No. FD 36284.