U.S. Department of Energy

Environmental Management Recovery Act

Keeping You in the Know

News Flash!

July 30, 2009

Moab Steps Up the Pace of Mill Tailings Shipments

Recovery Act funds ($108 million) are being used to accelerate the frequency of uranium mill tailings shipments from the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project site to a disposal site near Crescent Junction, Utah. Mill tailings are a byproduct of uranium mining and processing. Located northwest of Moab in Grand County, Utah, and on the west bank of the Colorado River, the Moab UMTRA Project includes the former Atlas uranium mill site that ceased operations in 1984. About 130 acres of the site is covered by a 16-million-ton uranium mill tailings pile. The mill tailings are being moved by train to the disposal site 30 miles away, where they are being safely and permanently disposed of in an engineered cell.

Mill tailings train

DOE began shipping mill tailings on April 20, 2009. About **160,000 tons** of mill tailings has been shipped, as of July 24.

Progress Made Possible by the Recovery Act

A gantry crane loads a container full of tailings onto a railcar

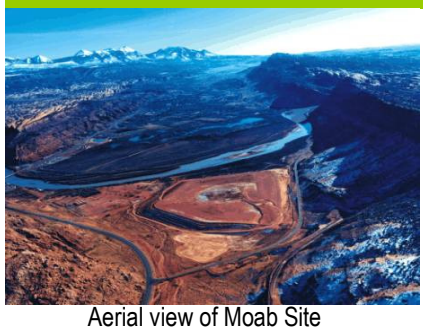
Dumping mill tailings in disposal cell

- Starting in May, one train shipment of up to 90 containers was made each day, Monday through Thursday. Starting in mid-June, **a fifth weekly shipment** was added on Fridays, using Recovery Act funds.
- **Running multiple trains a day** (planned to begin August 17), supported by Recovery Act funds, will further accelerate and maximize the quantity of tailings shipped by the end of fiscal year 2011.
- **Using Recovery Act funds**, project contractors have already **hired 92 new employees** to work on the project, **while saving the jobs of 22 current employees**.

The Recovery Act funding shortens the estimated project completion date from 2028 by several years, and with efficiencies, DOE hopes to further accelerate the completion date.

Working Towards the End Result

- Recovery Act work will create approximately **160 new jobs by fall of 2009.**
- **2 million additional tons** of mill tailings will be shipped.
- Site cleanup will be accelerated by several years.



Aerial view of Moab Site

More information regarding work at the Moab UMTRA Project is available at www.gjem.energy.gov/moab.

Other Steps to Accommodate …

Increased Number of Shipments

In August 2009, construction will begin for a new underpass that will be used by haul trucks carrying tailings containers to and from the rail load out area. The work is expected to be completed in November 2009 and will eliminate the interface of haul trucks with public traffic.