

Moab

Overview

The Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project is located in southeastern Utah. The site's 480 acres includes a former uranium-ore processing facility that operated under private ownership from 1956 to 1984. The Project's scope includes relocation of the estimated 16-million-ton pile of uranium mill tailings and other contaminated material near the Colorado River to an engineered disposal cell constructed 30 miles north near Crescent Junction, Utah. The scope also includes remediation of contaminated groundwater at the Moab Site. After contaminated soil, tailings, debris, and vicinity properties are remediated and interim groundwater actions are complete, a portion of the Moab site will be transferred to the Office of Legacy Management (LM) for continued groundwater monitoring and implementation of the final groundwater strategy. The Crescent Junction site will also be transferred to LM for long-term surveillance and maintenance of the disposal cell.

Calendar Year 2023 Accomplishments

- **Disposed of a cumulative total of 14 million tons of uranium mill tailings out of the original total of the estimated 16 million tons — an EM 2023 priority**

- **Removed a cumulative total of more than 983,000 pounds of ammonia and 5,600 pounds of uranium from groundwater, diverting those constituents from the Colorado River**
- **Completed the final expansion of the Crescent Junction disposal cell**
- **Remediated and removed 14 autoclaves from the Moab site**
- **Completed demolition of the legacy Atlas Building**

Planned Cleanup Scope 2024–2034

DOE will continue shipping nearly one million tons of uranium mill tailings annually to the Crescent Junction disposal site. As a result, DOE expects to complete the relocation and disposal of the pile by 2027. It will take an additional two years to complete the restoration of the Moab Site, dispose of potentially contaminated equipment and intermodal containers, and install the cover on the disposal cell.

In the immediate future, the Network of National Laboratories for Environmental Management and Stewardship is working with DOE-EM to complete field studies related to the development of the Groundwater Compliance Action Plan. Also at the Moab site, staff will be developing a design for realignment of the Moab Wash.

Key Regulatory Milestones 2024–2034

- **None**



This sealed steel container of uranium mill tailings brought the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project's cumulative total to 13 million tons of the material removed from the Moab Site for disposal at the Crescent Junction, Utah, disposal cell.



Post-2034 Cleanup Scope

The Moab mission is tentatively scheduled to be completed in 2029. Following closure, EM plans to transfer the site to Grand County, Utah, for beneficial reuse. The Crescent Junction site will be transferred to LM for long-term surveillance and maintenance.

A volunteer group of stakeholders made up of representatives from Grand County, the City of Moab, the Bureau of Land Management, the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, the National Park Service, and local citizens updated their “Community Vision” plan in 2023. Their reuse plan is for an outdoor park and recreation area that includes an amphitheater, event center, boat ramp, transit center and outdoor play and exercise areas.