Moab

Overview

The Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project (Moab Site or Project) is located in southeastern Utah. Its 480-acre Moab Site includes a former uranium-ore processing facility that operated under private ownership from 1956 to 1984. The Project 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 active remediation of contaminated groundwater at the Moab Site. After contaminated soil, tailings, debris, vicinity properties, and groundwater are remediated, the Moab Site will be transferred to LM for continued groundwater monitoring and potential reutilization of the site. The Crescent Junction Site will also be transferred to LM for monitoring and required stewardship of the disposal cell.

Calendar Year 2020 Accomplishments

- **Met an EM priority to dispose of a cumulative total of 11 million tons of uranium mill tailings out of the original total of 16 million tons**
- **Expanded a portion of the Crescent Junction disposal cell**
- **Removed a cumulative total of more than 950,000 pounds of ammonia and 5,300 pounds of uranium from groundwater, diverting those constituents from the Colorado River**

Planned Cleanup Scope 2021–2031

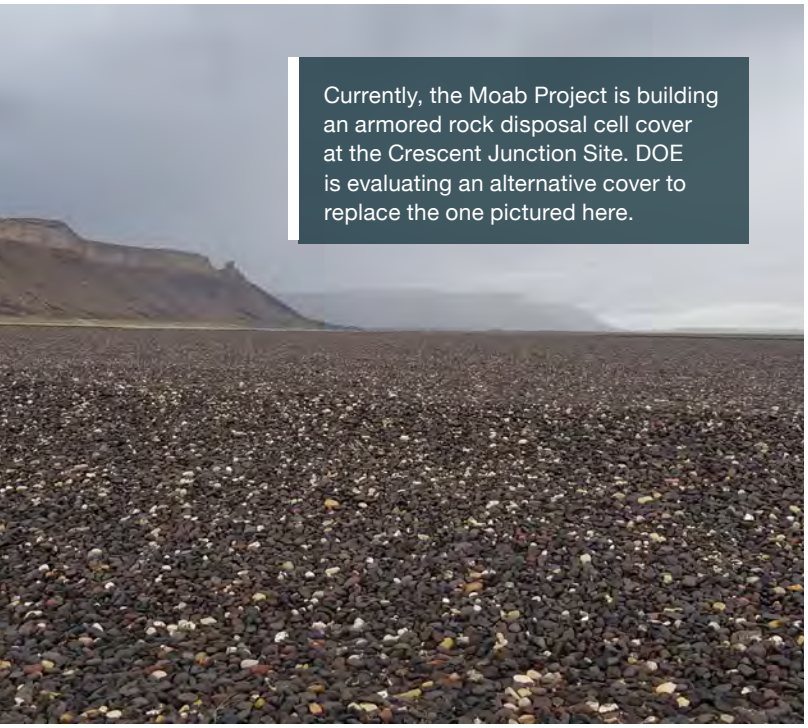
Over the next several years, DOE expects to ship nearly one million tons of uranium mill tailings annually to the Crescent Junction disposal site. As a result, DOE expects to complete the relocation and disposal of the pile by CY 2029. It will take an additional two years to complete the restoration of the Moab Site, dispose of potentially contaminated equipment and intermodal containers, and to install the cover on the disposal cell.

A gantry crane at the Moab Site is poised to lift a container loaded with mill tailings onto the train.

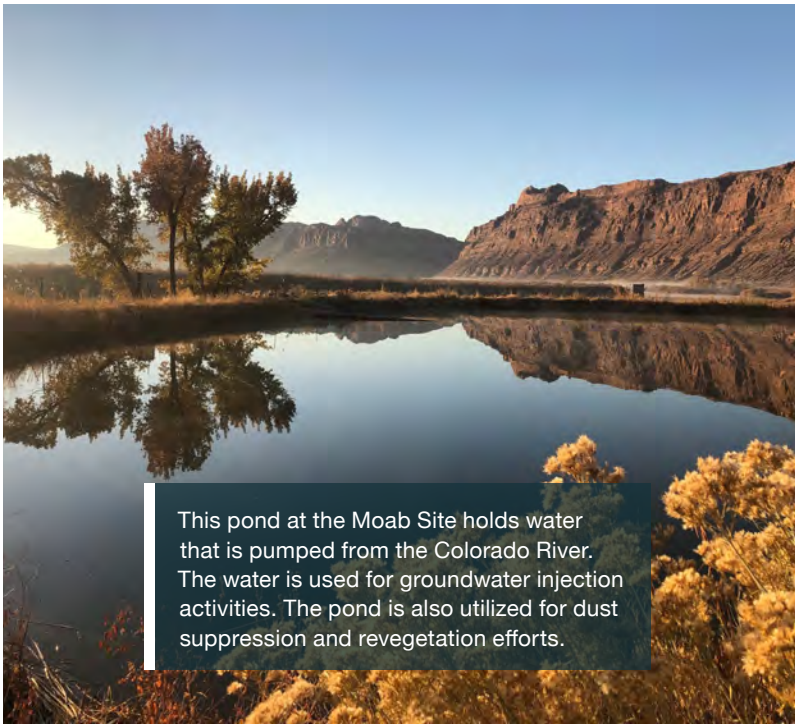
DOE also plans to continue transportation and disposal of oversize debris from the Moab Site, including 14 autoclaves decommissioned by the Atlas Minerals Corporation. They are assumed to weigh at least 40 tons each and could be filled with asbestos. Transportation of oversize debris will continue through CY 2028.

Key Regulatory Milestones 2021–2031

- None



Currently, the Moab Project is building an armored rock disposal cell cover at the Crescent Junction Site. DOE is evaluating an alternative cover to replace the one pictured here.



This pond at the Moab Site holds water that is pumped from the Colorado River. The water is used for groundwater injection activities. The pond is also utilized for dust suppression and revegetation efforts.

Post-2031 Cleanup Scope

The main cleanup activities at the Moab Site are scheduled to be completed in 2029, with site responsibility to be transferred to LM approximately two years later after the remaining site restoration work is completed. The Crescent Junction Site will be transferred to LM in this time frame also.

Every five years, a group of Grand County, Utah, volunteers revise a community vision for the Moab Site should the property be available for reuse after the Project is complete. Stakeholders involved in the update include representatives from the city of Moab; the Bureau of Land Management; Grand County; Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands; the National Park Service; and local citizens. The public's vision for reuse of the site includes: a park with an event center, multipurpose play areas, a lined lake or swimming pool facility, transportation facilities, a boat ramp, federal offices, a plaza with an "artist village" and performing arts center, trails, and an information center. The committee will revisit the community vision again in 2023.