MOAB URANIUM MILL TAILINGS REMEDIAL ACTION PROJECT

"The year 2021 was another challenging one for Moab, requiring ingenuity and flexibility as we continued to adapt to changing conditions amidst the global pandemic. Our team safely and effectively sustained operations and met the 12 million tons milestone. I'm excited to be moving onto the home stretch of this cleanup mission."

– *Russell McCallister, Federal Cleanup Director, Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project*

HIGHLIGHTS

- Reached a cumulative total of more than 12 million tons of mill tailings shipped from Moab to disposal — an EM 2021 priority.
- Diverted a cumulative total of more than 970,000 pounds of ammonia and more than 5,400 pounds of uranium from the Colorado River.
- Performed size reduction, packaging and disposed of a portion of the mill building debris that was originally buried in the southern end of the tailings pile.
- Reached 60 percent design of the evapotranspiration (ET) cover at the Crescent Junction disposal cell.

MARKING THE 12 MILLION TONS MILESTONE

The Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project reached a milestone in October, commemorating 12 million tons of residual radioactive material shipped from a former uranium ore processing facility in Moab, Utah, to the disposal cell near Crescent Junction, Utah. This represents 75 percent of the 16 million tons originally at the site.

Rail bench containers at the Moab Site.

A view from the rail bench at the Moab Site.

PROTECTING THE COLORADO RIVER

The Moab Site sits adjacent to the Colorado River. Efforts to protect the vital water source include extracting ammonia and uranium mass from groundwater underlying the site since 2003.

DELIVERING MORE EFFICIENT CLEANUP

In 2021, the Moab Project team continued to implement improvements and increase the quantity of residual radioactive material per shipment for disposal, despite challenges posed by the pandemic. On June 8, the project surpassed its own record, transporting the largest shipment of uranium mill tailings from Moab to Crescent Junction. After some minor rail improvements at Crescent Junction and fine-tuning operations at both sites, the project added a 39th railcar to the train, which enables it to ship on average an additional 540 tons each week. These incremental changes add up over time, making a significant impact to the project's life cycle.

REVEGETATION FOR RESTORING THE COLORADO RIVER CORRIDOR

The project partnered with the U.S. Geological Survey to develop experimental monitoring plots for soil restoration and revegetation of remediated areas, testing various soil treatments and seed mixes on site. The project also partnered with the National Park Service (NPS) to salvage native plants and soil for restoration of disturbed ecosystems at the site, salvaging native plants and soils from NPS land slated for development. In addition, through collaboration with the Southeast Utah Riparian Partnership, the project is engaging in best practices for ecological restoration along the Colorado River corridor.

CRESCENT JUNCTION COVER

The Moab Project has made great progress by reaching a 60 percent design milestone for the ET cover at the Crescent Junction disposal cell. Unlike standard rock armor covers, ET covers feature

The Crescent Junction disposal cell, about 30 miles away from the Moab Site.

vegetation. Because plants remove water from the soil, allowing vegetation to grow on a cell cover limits precipitation from infiltrating the cell below. The ET cover is particularly well-suited for the arid climate of Crescent Junction, and it is also more cost-efficient as it requires less material.