



Moab Site Cleanup By the Numbers

The Moab site is located about 3 miles northwest of the city of Moab in Grand County, Utah. The Moab site encompasses approximately 480 acres, of which about 130 acres are covered by a uranium mill tailings pile. In 1956, the Uranium Reduction Company constructed the Moab mill and operated it until 1962 when the assets were sold to Atlas Minerals Corporation. The milling product was a uranium concentrate called yellowcake, which was sold to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission through December 1970 for use in national defense programs. Mill tailings are the remains from processing uranium ore. After 1970, production was primarily for commercial sales to nuclear power plants. Atlas ceased processing operations in 1984. The former mill site was transferred to DOE ownership in 2001 for cleanup and reclamation. Today, the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) project is relocating mill tailings and other contaminated materials from the mill site and off-site vicinity properties to a disposal cell near Crescent Junction, Utah.

1,400 tons of ore were processed daily on average during the mill's years of operation.

UP TO A 90-FOOT THICK PILE was formed from tailings pumped to an unlined impoundment in the western portion of the property that accumulated over time.

16M tons of mill tailings and contaminated soil were present when DOE assumed site ownership. An interim cover was placed over the tailings pile as part of decommissioning activities conducted between 1988 and 1995.



IN 2009 DOE began relocating tailings to the Crescent Junction disposal cell. Tailings are excavated and conditioned in drying beds on top of the pile to reach optimal moisture content for disposal. The tailings are then placed in steel containers with locking lids for transport. A gantry crane is used to transfer containers to and from the train at Moab.

133 acres of contaminated soil in off-pile areas of the Moab site have been remediated.

8.7M tons of tailings have been shipped, amounting to more than 54 percent of the total tons.

42 extraction and freshwater injection wells protect surface water quality and recover ammonia, uranium, and other contaminants prior to discharge to the Colorado River.

