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By the Numbers
Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project

The Moab site is located about 3 miles northwest of the city of Moab in Grand County, Utah, and 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.

Between 2020-2030

DOE expects to ship approximately 6 million tons of uranium mill tailings to the Crescent Junction disposal site.

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.

>10.4M

tons of tailings have been shipped, amounting to 65 percent of the total tons.

1,400

tons of ore were processed daily on average during the operational lifetime of the mill.

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.

Up to a 90ft

thick pile was formed from tailings pumped to an unlined impoundment in the western portion of the property that accumulated over time.

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

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