Tailings Times

July 2006
Volume 1, Issue 2

MOAB UTAH
UMTRA Project

Improving Our Look

You may have noticed that the entrance to the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project site is not easy to find. We are trying to change that this summer with improvements to our site entrance and directional signage on U.S. Highway 191. In addition, we enhanced the site landscaping and will be adding modular office space to accommodate our increasing workforce.

This sign at the entrance to the Moab site emphasizes the priority we place on safety.

Conditional Use Permit

We are in the process of designing site improvements necessary to support the planned remediation activities. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) worked closely with Grand County to meet the county's Conditional Use Permit requirements. DOE's Conditional Use Permit application addressed various infrastructure and improvement plans for the Moab site as well as the Crescent Junction disposal site, such as temporary field offices (trailers), transportation facilities, radiological controls, dust control, utility upgrades, and site access road improvements. The application also demonstrated how DOE will comply with the county's Land Use Code regarding site development, waste materials management, and storm water management standards. We submitted our application in early June, and County Planning Commission members toured the site and asked questions to get a better understanding of our plans.

The Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on June 28 to discuss the application and hear comments of local citizens. During the hearing, the commission recommended that the Grand County Council approve our application. The Grand County Council hosted a public hearing on July 11 to consider the application and approved the application through a resolution on July 18.

Site Entrance and Signage

The existing access road to the Moab site is adequate for only a limited volume of traffic. Last spring, we hired experts to conduct a traffic analysis to determine if the site entrance road should be reconfigured to make it safer. Experts also conducted radon modeling studies to determine the best location for the office and support trailers to achieve the lowest possible radon exposure to employees during excavation of the tailings pile. Construction of approximately 1,000 feet of new access roads will be necessary to accommodate the increased traffic. New access roads will be 30 feet wide and asphalt surfaced; therefore, they will not require regular dust control measures. As a result of the expert recommendations,

Continued Page 3

MOAB UTAH
UMTRA Project

Message From the Federal Project Director

I hope you enjoyed reading the inaugural edition of the Moab UMTRA Project newsletter, *Tailings Times*, that we issued in March 2006. If you missed that issue, it's posted on the Moab Project website at http://gj.em.doe.gov/moab under the General bullet.

In this second edition, we will update you on some of the projects we discussed in the first issue and tell you about our busy summer. Some of our current and upcoming activities at the Moab site include remediating the U.S. Highway 191 rights-of-way within or near our northern site boundary and changes to our site entrance and modular office space. Another article provides information on the gamma surveys we've performed on public and private properties near the Moab site and emergency response coordination efforts with local entities. In addition, we want to continue to highlight some of the excellent project staff we are fortunate to have on our team.

Donald Metzler, Federal Project Director

As always, we'd like to hear from you about how we're doing. Feel free to use the contact information at the end of this newsletter to share your thoughts.

Donald Metzler
Moab Federal Project Director

Moab Project Welcomes Three DOE Staff Members

Three DOE employees have joined the Office of Environmental Management (EM) Moab Project team at the Grand Junction, Colorado, office within the past several months—Ken Brakken, Bob Birk, and Gail Majors. Ken and Bob both formerly worked at the Rocky Flats Site near Denver, Colorado. Ken provides health and safety oversight, and Bob is the Moab Project Compliance Officer and a member of the DOE EM Consolidated Business Center Cadre. Gail, the newest addition to the DOE EM Moab Project staff, has been at the DOE Grand Junction office since 1994, most recently working for the DOE Office of Legacy Management. Gail performs financial management, budget, and project controls functions.

What's In This Issue?

Tailings Times is published periodically by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management at Grand Junction, Colorado, to inform stakeholders of progress to date on the Moab UMTRA Project and plans for future activities.

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Improving Our Look Continued From Page 1

we are relocating the trailer staging area due east of the current location.

We are working with the Utah Department of Transportation for permission to post directional signs to the Moab site along U.S. Highway 191. We hope to post these signs this fall after remediation of the highway rights-of-way.

In preparation for the U.S. Highway 191 rights-of-way remediation (see related article on page 5), a decontamination pad is being constructed near the entrance to the Moab site. The decontamination pad is the location for scanning vehicles and equipment for the presence of contamination after it is washed off or otherwise removed before the vehicles and equipment are released. Trucks that will transport oversize debris from the tailings pile to the Crescent Junction disposal site will also be scanned. Water used for decontamination will be collected in a retention pond adjacent to the pad.

Office Space and Potable Water

Four office trailers and one radiological access-control trailer are currently located at the Moab site. No domestic water source is available on site, and portable toilets serve as restrooms. To support the upcoming construction activities and an increase in the number of employees, DOE plans to purchase six additional trailers to use for restrooms, showers, break rooms, a conference area, and additional office space.

In addition, the radiological access-control area will be relocated and expanded. A new personnel contamination monitor, or whole-body counter, will be installed in this trailer. The personnel contamination monitor is used to scan individuals as they exit the radiological controlled area of the site to detect the presence of contamination. A waterline extension was planned from the city of Moab to the site. However, because of the difficulty in crossing the Colorado River on the state highway bridge, we will instead construct an on-site water storage tank and distribution lines to the on-site trailers. Potable water will be delivered routinely by truck to the site "We are trying to improve working conditions for our employees who work here every day," said Donald Metzler, Moab Federal Project Director.

Revegetation

A log cabin in the northeast corner of the site, constructed in the 1930s, was documented for its historical relevance and value. DOE determined that the occupants of the cabin sold the millsite property to Charlie Steen in 1954 for $40,000. After documentation was completed, the Utah State Historical Preservation Office allowed DOE to demolish the cabin, which was in disrepair and posed a safety hazard to employees and visitors.

In late spring, 8 acres of land mainly around the former cabin and north of the tree hedgerow was seeded and mulched, and 720 trees and shrubs were planted to further establish areas of native grasses, shrubs, and trees at the site. DOE's contractor, S.M. Stoller Corporation (Stoller), hired two college interns to operate the site irrigation systems that were installed to support the new vegetation. The seedings and plantings have progressed well despite unusually hot, dry conditions in early June. Results of previous revegetation efforts at the site are also very encouraging. Additional disturbed

Continued Page 4

Log cabin located on Moab site prior to demolition.

Improving Our Look Continued From Page 3

The four wet wells, prior to backfilling, that are associated with the river water storage pond.

areas will be revegetated with native plants as soon as possible to stabilize the soil, prevent erosion, and improve habitat.

River Water Storage Pond

Construction of the new river water storage pond is going well. The new pond ranges in depth between 10 and 12 feet and will hold approximately 2 million gallons of water. The pond is lined with a geosynthetic clay liner, and a turbidity curtain or silt screen will be installed to reduce the amount of sediment in the water that is pumped from the pond.

A number of fish species live in the existing storage pond. As part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's fish recovery program, Utah Division of Wildlife (fish recovery team) representatives will come to the site in July to determine if any endangered fish species are present. Any endangered specimens will be relocated to a hatchery or back into the river. The remaining fish will be transferred to the new storage pond.

The associated pump station was refurbished and an underground pipeline to the pond was installed. Four wet wells were embedded just north of the pond to extract water from the pond and disperse it to the ground water interim action system for freshwater injection, to provide irrigation water to revegetated areas, to fill water trucks used for dust suppression, and for other construction purposes as needed. One wet well is a spare for future anticipated needs.

The water truck fill station was used during milling operations to decontaminate trucks and other milling equipment. In preparation for moving the tailings, the fill station will be relocated and expanded so that one side will be in the contamination area and the other side will be in the noncontaminated area.

Security

DOE determined that security personnel at the Moab site were necessary during the hours when the site is unoccupied. Security patrols are now in place to watch for unusual conditions, such as fire, intruders, open gates, cut fences, vandalism, and theft.

A water truck is filled at the existing fill station.

Cleanup of Highway Rights-of-Way and National Park Service Land

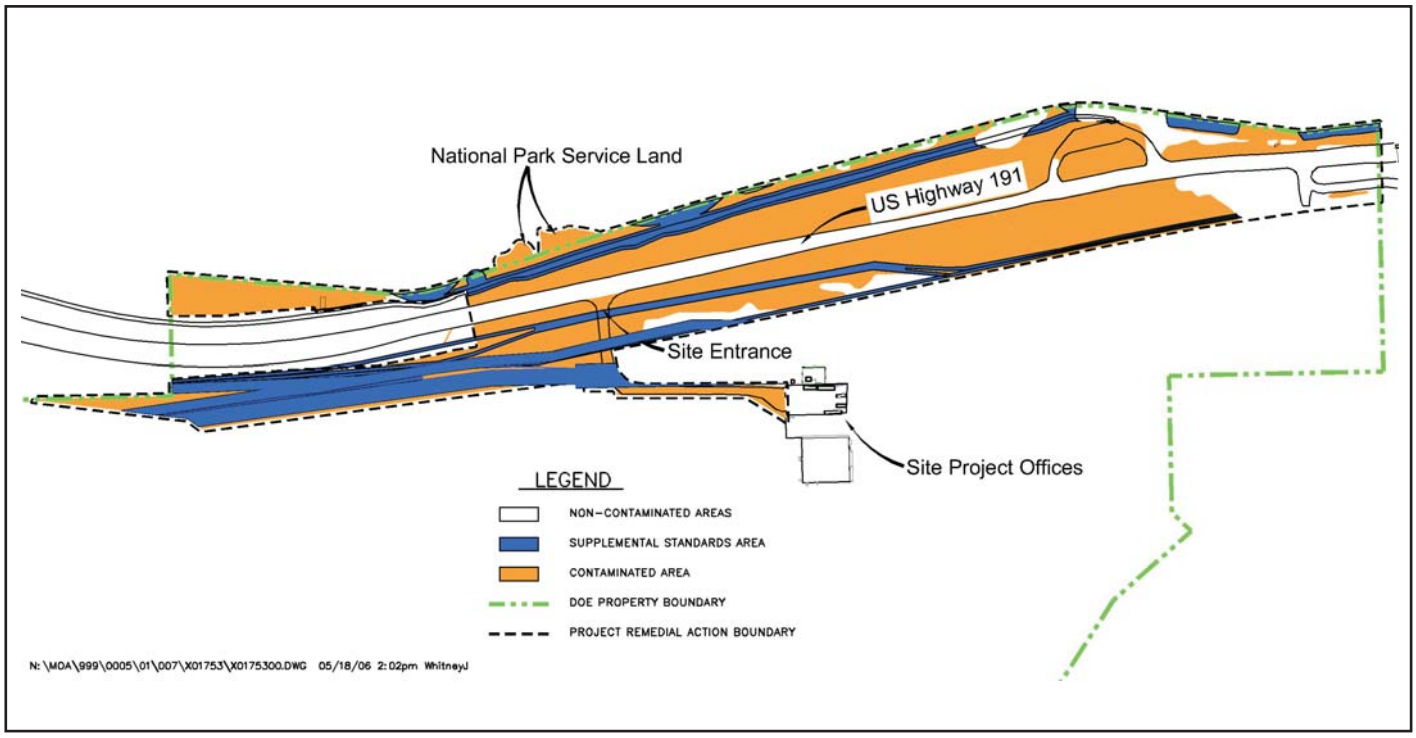
The Moab UMTRA Project includes not only removal of the uranium mill tailings pile but also cleanup of contaminated ground water and cleanup and reclamation of the millsite property and certain off-site properties known as vicinity properties.

A portion of U.S. Highway 191 is within the Moab site property boundary. The rights-of-way on the north and south sides of the highway have radiologically contaminated soil to a depth of approximately 6 to 12 inches, mostly from wind-blown contamination. Parts of the highway rights-of-way were cleaned up in 2003 when the Utah Department of Transportation made improvements to the highway.

In July, DOE began remediating the remaining contaminated portions of the highway rights-of-way within the site boundary. The Highway 191 remediation area is a 200-foot right-of-way that parallels the northern boundary of the site and spans 39 acres. Approximately 28,700 cubic yards of contaminated soils will be removed from the 21 acres that require remediation. The figure below shows the areas to be remediated.

Temporary fencing will be constructed along the right-of-way on each side of the highway and will remain in place until backfilling to final grades is complete and equipment has been removed from the area. Construction activities will start in the east portion of the area and work west and will be performed to minimize obstructions to traffic flow along those sections of the highway. The parking lot at the base of Courthouse Wash and the portion of the bike path adjacent to the highway from Courthouse Wash to mile marker 130 will be closed intermittently during remediation. Signs will be posted at

Continued
Page 6



Highway 191 rights-of-way and National Park Service land remediation areas north of Moab site.

Cleanup of Highway Rights-of-Way and National Park Service Land Continued From Page 5

various locations around Moab to notify walkers, hikers, and bicyclists who use the parking lot or bike path about the status of closures.

DOE worked in cooperation with the Utah Department of Transportation to prepare a traffic control plan and to ensure that backfill material will be properly compacted adjacent to the highway. Excavated materials will be loaded onto trucks and hauled to the top of the mill tailings pile for disposal. Trucks will be covered to prevent dust from blowing off the trucks. Other dust control measures will be used in the remediation area.

Because the trucks will be entering the contamination area at the Moab site to unload the excavated materials, a decontamination pad is being constructed near the entrance to the Moab site as the location to scan trucks for contamination before they leave the site. Any contamination present on a truck will be removed.

Remediation of the U.S. Highway 191 east right-of-way is in progress. A front-end loader fills a dump truck with excavated materials while a water truck provides dust suppression.

Radiologic monitoring of the excavated surface will determine when sufficient material has been removed from the right-of-way areas. The rights-of-way will be cleaned up according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards defined in Title 40 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 192.

Several supplemental standards areas exist within the right-of-way remediation areas. Contamination in these areas will be left in place because they are utility rights-of-way or sites of historical significance, such as the old highway bike path and archaeologically sensitive areas. Contamination in utility rights-of-way is usually cleaned up only when the utility company has to repair or replace a line so that the area is just disturbed once. For the areas of historical significance, the health risk associated with the contamination is minimal compared to the cost of remediation and potential damage to the historical sites.

The National Park Service owns the property north of the northern Moab site boundary. The entrance to Arches National Park is located less than 1 mile northwest of the site. Two small National Park Service parcels (see figure on page 5), north of the U.S. Highway 191 right-of-way, have contamination on the surface soil and will be cleaned up during remediation of the highway rights-of-way. Remediating these areas concurrently prevents the possibility of contaminating areas that were previously cleaned. The contaminated areas total 0.4 acre, with contamination estimated to extend 6 inches below the ground surface. Approximately 322 cubic yards of contaminated material will be removed.

Areas disturbed during the remediation will be backfilled and reseeded with native species or otherwise returned to pre-remediation conditions. Remediation and reconstruction of both the National Park Service parcels and highway rights-of-way are anticipated to be complete by mid-September.

Waterworks

Since March, we have implemented or begun implementation of several changes and added new systems and wells associated with surface water and ground water cleanup at the Moab site.

Initial Action

Each spring, DOE monitors the water level in the Colorado River to determine if the river flow is likely to create critical habitat areas for endangered fish species. These habitats are most likely to emerge with river flows between 10,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) and 15,000 cfs.

The surface water initial remedial action is designed to dilute potentially elevated contaminant concentrations, especially ammonia, in shallow surface water areas called backwater pools. These backwater pools, which serve as fish habitat, are at the edge of the river adjacent to the site. The backwater pools form as the river rises during normal runoff years and may expose endangered fish species to site contaminants.

The purpose of the initial action is to introduce clean upstream river water to the shallow river areas adjacent to the site to mitigate potentially elevated contaminant concentrations with minimal alteration to the physical suitability of the critical habitat for aquatic life. Freshwater from the river is pumped through a hose into a diffuser that lies on the bottom of the river backwater channel. As water is pumped into the diffuser, it inflates and the water is discharged to the shallow areas with minimal disturbance to the backwater area.

This year, the river flow peaked on May 24 at 22,400 cfs. On the basis of site observations, DOE decided to implement the initial action system on May 30 when the flow dropped below 15,000 cfs. The initial action system operated in three areas of the river until June 17, when the water flow levels decreased to less than 10,000 cfs. DOE evaluates the water flow each year and is prepared to implement the initial action if conditions warrant. The initial action was implemented for the first time in summer 2005. Results of that initial action are available in *Moab Initial Action Report 2005 Calendar Year* that is available on the Moab website at http://gj.em.doe.gov/moab/documents/InitialActionReport2005.pdf.

Surface water initial action system dilutes potentially elevated contaminant concentrations.

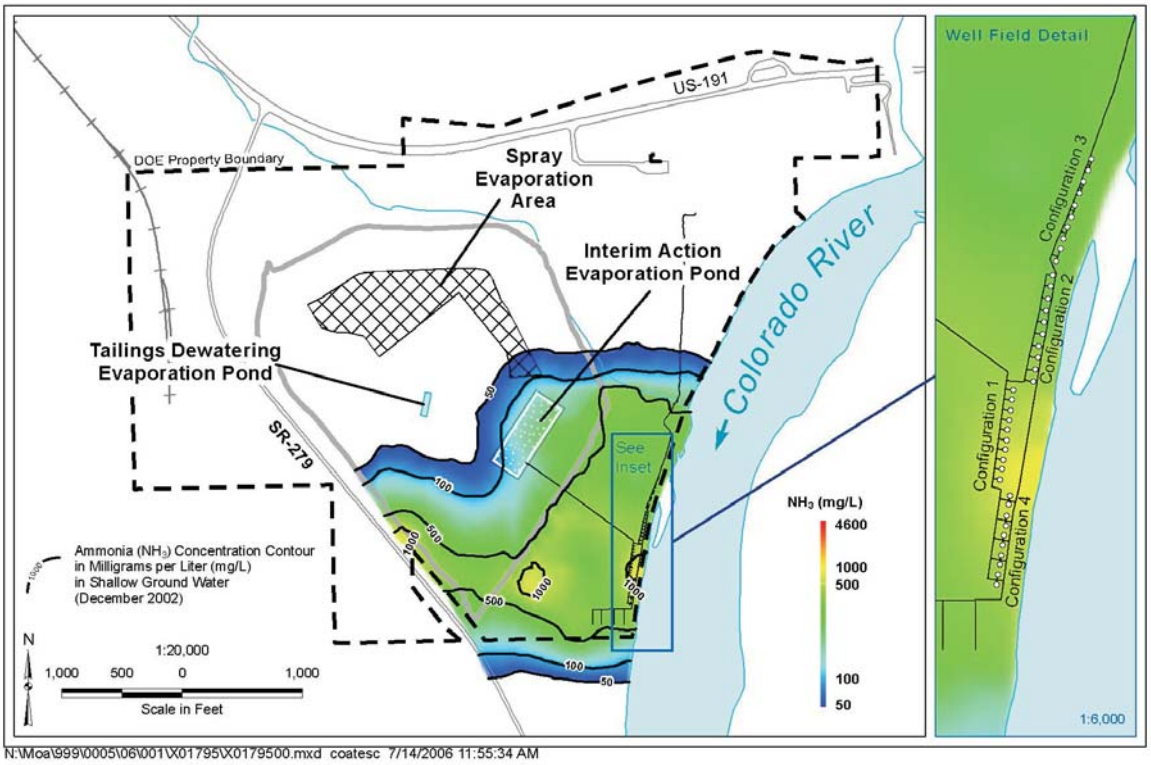
Interim Action

In our first edition of *Tailings Times* we described the interim action system, which is designed to address elevated ammonia levels in ground water at the Moab site. This interim ground water remediation focuses primarily on improving surface water quality, particularly in areas that are potential habitat for endangered fish species, and reducing contaminant mass in the aquifer until a long-term remediation system can be designed and installed.

The current system consists of three clusters of 10 wells each, referred to as Configurations 1, 2, and 3, either for extracting contaminated ground water or injecting freshwater (diverted river water). The primary purpose of operating any of the well field configurations in extraction mode

Continued
Page 8

Waterworks Continued From Page 7



Location of Configuration 4 well field of extraction and injection wells.

is to intercept ammonia in high-concentration areas before it reaches the Colorado River. To date, more than 120,000 kilograms (264,550 pounds) of ammonia has been removed from the ground water. In addition, 489 kilograms (1,078 pounds) of uranium has been removed. The purpose of injection of freshwater into the aquifer close to the river is to determine the feasibility of and capacity for diluting ammonia concentrations in the backwater habitat. Analytical results of surface water samples indicate that injection does dilute concentrations of ammonia, thereby improving the quality of local surface water areas.

The most important processes to understand are those that relate to ground water and surface water interactions. "We are expanding the interim action system to build on our current understanding of these interactions and to identify ways in which the interim action can further reduce ammonia concentrations in surface water," said John Ford, Ground Water Lead for Stoller. The expansion includes a freshwater infiltration trench and a fourth configuration of dual-purpose (extraction and injection) wells south of the existing well fields (see figure above). The interim action expansion is intended to help guide implementation of a final remedial action system for ground water as described in DOE's *Alternatives Analysis for Long-Term Ground Water Remediation, Moab UMTRA Project Site, Located Near Moab, Utah*. We anticipate that the interim action system may operate for as long as 10 years before implementation of the final ground water remedy.

Spray Evaporation

Water extracted through the interim action wells is pumped via pipeline to an evaporation pond located on top of the tailings pile. A sprinkler system operates in conjunction with the evaporation pond by spraying water from the pond onto the tailings pile. Sprinklers were added to the existing system in the southwest corner of the pile along the

Continued Page 13

Tailings in Town

What Are Vicinity Properties?

The Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) of 1978, which is the regulatory driver for remediation of the Moab site, also authorizes the Secretary of Energy to clean up vicinity properties. DOE will be performing radiological assessments and remedial action on properties "in the vicinity of" the Moab processing site that became contaminated with residual radioactive materials derived from the site. Residual radioactive material is defined as processed waste materials originating from the Moab millsite (e.g., tailings), but it does not include unprocessed naturally occurring radioactive material (i.e., uranium ore). The main health risks associated with mill tailings are from long-term exposure to low levels of gamma radiation and radon gas, a decay product of uranium, and process-related waste materials.

Background

By definition, UMTRCA Title I millsite licenses were terminated and, in most cases, abandoned by the owner or operator before reclamation was completed. In many Title I site communities, the public was encouraged to remove tailings from the processing sites for such uses as utilities bedding material, foundation backfill, and fill soil for gardens. For example, 4,087 properties were included in the Grand Junction (Colorado) Vicinity Properties Project, and 118 properties were remediated in the Salt Lake City (Utah) Vicinity Properties Project.

However, unlike these other sites, public access to haul tailings materials was never allowed at the Moab millsite. It was originally designated an UMTRCA Title II site that was operated by private companies and later managed by the Trustee under a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission license. Congressional legislation mandated that the Moab millsite become a Title I site and that ownership be transferred to DOE; DOE took control of the site in 2001.

Because of this difference in site controls, we expect fewer vicinity properties in Moab that require remediation than were associated with other UMTRCA Title I sites.

Gamma Surveys

In 1971, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) performed mobile gamma surveys in approximately 40 communities in western United States, including Moab. In Moab, 1,252 properties were surveyed, and 130 were identified as having "anomalous gamma" readings. These properties had a wide range of anomalous gamma readings, ranging from 1.5 to 25 times background radiation levels. EPA's report of its survey also included notations, such as "tailings present" or "ore in rock garden."

Radiological assessment team members conduct a gamma screening survey of a Moab vicinity property using a crutch scintillometer.

Last summer, DOE selected 25 properties from EPA's list of 130 anomalous gamma properties as candidates for gamma screening surveys. "We selected properties that either had a higher probability of elevated readings on the basis of EPA's data or were properties that may be of particular public interest, such as the school," said Donald Metzler, Moab Federal Project Director. Of the 25 properties, 14 were noted by EPA as tailings related, 6 were residential properties noted by EPA as ore related, and 5 were businesses or public entities, including the

Continued
Page 10

Tailings in Town Continued From Page 9

recreation center and HMK Intermediate School, noted by EPA as ore related.

Seventeen property owners agreed to allow surveys of their properties. Screening surveys were performed only on the exterior portion of the properties; no interior surveys for gamma levels or radon concentrations were conducted. DOE performed the gamma screening surveys for planning and budgeting purposes to estimate the number of potential vicinity properties that possibly could require remediation.

Findings

Of the 17 properties surveyed, only a handful had elevated gamma readings. Visible tailings were not noted or observed on any of the 17 properties. "As we expected, we have seen little indication that tailings were deposited on properties in the city of Moab," said Donald. Elevated readings at discrete locations, or point sources, can generally be attributed to a piece of uranium ore, dinosaur bone, or petrified wood. Occasionally, the determination of the source of elevated gamma readings is difficult, such as buried point sources. If we have doubts, we may collect soil samples from the area to assist in this determination. Property owners who participated in the screening survey were provided with gamma scan maps of their properties and an explanation of the data collected.

Two private properties located adjacent to the Moab site were surveyed and were included as vicinity properties in the project because they contain residual radioactive materials originating from the former Moab millsite. Remediation of these properties is planned to begin later this summer. In addition, two small parcels of National Park Service land north of the Moab site will be remediated along with the U.S. Highway 191 rights-of-way this summer (see "Cleanup of Highway Rights-of-Way," page 5). We are also conducting radiological assessment surveys of the Bureau of Land Management property that lies northwest and south of the Moab site.

Equipment

We have refined our methods of conducting gamma surveys and analyzing soil samples based on experiences and knowledge gained in other UMTRA Vicinity Properties Projects. Most properties are scanned for gamma radiation with a hand-held instrument called a crutch scintillometer. On larger properties, we use sodium-iodide detectors linked to global positioning system units and computers mounted on all-terrain vehicles, which greatly reduce the scanning time without sacrificing accuracy. Soil samples are analyzed for radium-226 at the site with a stationary opposed-crystal system. This system allows for real-time data acquisition to facilitate remedial action or assessment decisions.

Sodium-iodide detectors mounted on an all-terrain vehicle measure gamma radiation. Data are fed to a computer on the front seat.

Next Steps

On the basis of the results of the 17 property surveys, DOE is fairly certain that the number of Moab vicinity properties will not be a significant effort. "Our focus is on moving the mill tailings pile," said Donald. "But we will continue to conduct gamma scans of the remaining properties on EPA's list as time and money allow."

Emergency Response – Are We Prepared?

We do a lot of planning at DOE before any work begins on a project. But despite our best efforts, emergencies do happen. That's why we have been coordinating emergency response efforts with local agencies in Grand County to ensure safe and timely responses to emergencies that may occur as a result of Moab UMTRA Project activities.

This spring, DOE prepared a draft Emergency Response Plan that addresses contingency planning, personnel responsibilities, reporting requirements, site evacuation procedures, equipment and training needs, and response action plans for various types of emergencies. Grand County has a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) that meets quarterly in Moab. Copies of the draft Emergency Response Plan were distributed to some members of the LEPC prior to its April 20 meeting.

At the April meeting, DOE contractor representatives presented a brief overview of the scope of the Moab UMTRA Project, upcoming major activities involving heavy equipment operation, and potential hazards and risks at the Moab site. They also discussed components of the Emergency Response Plan and accepted comments on the plan from the LEPC member reviewers through June 23. These comments are being reviewed and will be incorporated into the final plan, as appropriate.

Emergency Responder Training

As next steps in the coordination effort, we will be offering training to emergency responders that is geared toward hazards they may encounter at the site. At the May safety incentive luncheon for Moab site employees, Corky Brewer, the Grand County Fire Chief, spoke to the group about fire safety and Grand County's fire protection practices and gave a demonstration on the types and use of fire extinguishers.

Grand County Fire Chief Corky Brewer (standing) spoke to Moab site employees about fire protection measures.

DOE will provide a site visit for LEPC members (primarily from the hospital and ambulance service) to show them site access points, haul routes, and personal protective equipment. DOE is also working with hospital personnel to develop procedures for treating injury victims with contamination who may arrive at the hospital.

Response Plan

In the longer term, DOE will develop a response plan for incidents that may occur between Moab and Crescent Junction during transport of the mill tailings. DOE will notify the Utah Highway Patrol when it commences shipments of oversize materials on U.S. Highway 191.

"We appreciate the positive interaction we have had with local emergency responders and look forward to continuing our coordination efforts, with the hope that our plan won't ever have to be implemented," said Ken Brakken, DOE Moab Project Health and Safety Lead.

Safety Spotlight

Entertaining Safety Message

Contractor and subcontractor employees at the Moab site enjoyed a skit created and enacted by their co-workers at the project safety incentive luncheon held on May 24 at the Aarchway Inn in Moab. Stoller Project Site Manager, Irwin Stewart, was the playwright and played himself in the skit. The plot involved a self-proclaimed backhoe operator who arrives at the site looking for work and is assigned the task of digging postholes for a new DOE sign. Onlookers were asked to write down all the safety infractions in the skit. The audience named 24 unsafe practices.

"We thought this would be an entertaining way to engage people in thinking about safety," said Irwin. "We have a lot of procedures in place and many rules to follow, but they are there for a reason. We hope this skit helped remind employees of their purpose."

Stoller employees Alan Manson (left) and Joe Larson in an improvised backhoe act out unsafe practices.

Employees Always on Safety Duty

Members of the Stoller radiological assessment team who travel from Grand Junction to Moab each week came upon a rollover accident during their commute early on the morning of June 5. Stoller employees Kent Moe and Joe Trevino were the first to spot the vehicle, which was a pickup truck, at about mile marker 210 on westbound Interstate 70. Ernie Colunga and Bob Hopping were a few minutes behind them, followed by Tom Unrein and Lee Whitcomb. They all stopped to see if they could help and discovered a man lying on the ground next to the truck.

A Stoller employee called 911 because of the perceived severity of the injuries. While they waited for first responders to arrive, Stoller employees administered first aid, including covering the victim with a blanket because he was in shock and putting compresses on his head and leg wounds. The man did not speak English, but luckily Joe was able to converse with him in Spanish. The employees collected the man's personal belongings that were strewn on the ground and provided them to the Utah State Patrol personnel when they arrived.

The victim was evidently a delivery person for a Grand Junction newspaper and other publications based on the stacks of newspapers that were in the back of the truck and scattered along the highway. The employees found out later that the man usually arrives in Moab about 4:45 a.m.; they estimate the man had been lying there for at least an hour before they saw the

Continued
Page 13

Stoller radiological assessment team members (L to R): Kent Moe, Tom Unrein, Joe Trevino, Bob Hopping, Lee Whitcomb, and Ernie Colunga.

Safety Spotlight Continued From Page 12

truck. The employees waited at the scene for about 45 minutes until an ambulance from the Lower Valley Fire Department in Fruita, Colorado, arrived and transported the victim to St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction.

"Two things I came away with that day were to always wear your seatbelt and to pull over if you're tired," said Bob. "This accident illustrates how safety never takes a break," said Irwin. "The willingness that these employees demonstrated to assist a stranger during an emergency and the life-saving measures they took are commendable."

The members of this assessment team, which is lead by Bob Hopping, were also recognized at a Moab Project safety luncheon last spring for demonstrating safe practices while working in close quarters with heavy equipment at the Moab site. They were acknowledged for the extra time they take to get an operator's attention before approaching the equipment and the close attention they pay to where they are in relation to the equipment.

"On and off the job, our employees display their safety consciousness," said Irwin.

Waterworks Continued From Page 8

side slope and another sprinkler system was installed along the northwest crest line of the pile to provide dust suppression to areas that weren't being reached by the existing system. The additional 40 sprinkler heads will also help evaporate the increased volume of water that will be extracted through Configuration 4 wells.

Telemetry System

Another addition to the interim action system was the installation of a telemetry system. In March, we completed installation of flow meters, water-level transducers, dataloggers, and telemetry instrumentation for the Configuration 3 wells. Data from these instruments are transmitted daily through a cellular modem to a computer server at the DOE office in Grand Junction, Colorado. These data are automatically processed into graphical displays by Vista Data Vision software.

The greatest advantage this telemetry system offers is complete automation, including the manipulation and graphical presentation of data. "Project personnel interested in viewing these data simply log on to our internal Vista Data Vision web page to see all the data that has been collected to that day," said Ken Pill, Stoller Hydrogeologist. The system also has been useful in quickly identifying problems with the extraction well system. Unlike other semi-automated systems, the telemetry system does not rely on a middle-man company to collect and present our data for us; all our data are collected and stored in-house.

Because this telemetry system has been so successful, we installed the same system for the Configuration 1 wells. This system was fully operational by the end of June.

Telemetry system collects data for Configuration 3 wells.

How Do I Get Information About the Project?

For more information about the Moab UMTRA Project, contact

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You may also call our toll-free hotline at 1–800–637–4575 or send us an email at moabcomments@gjo.doe.gov. Moab UMTRA Project documents are available on the DOE website at **http://gj.em.doe.gov/moab** and at

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257 East Center Street (**Note new library address**)
Moab, Utah
(435) 259–5421
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9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m Monday through Wednesday
9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday
Closed Sunday

Thompson Springs Fire Station
Off I-70 exit
Thompson Springs, Utah
Contact Lori Bell
Thompson Springs Fire Department
(435) 260–6059
Available by appointment:
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

DOE Office in Grand Junction
2597 B¾ Road
Grand Junction, Colorado
Contact Wendee Ryan
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