Moab, Utah, UMTRA Project Timeline

1956

Uranium Reduction Company constructed and operated Moab mill.

1962

Mill sold to Atlas Minerals Corporation. Atlas operated the site under a license and regulatory authority provided by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and, subsequently, with Title II of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978.

1984

Processing operations ceased, by which time approximately 11.9 million tons of uranium mill tailings and tailings-contaminated soil had been stored in an unlined impoundment located in the northwest portion of the property.

1995

Interim cover placed on tailings pile.

1996

In response to a request by Atlas for a license amendment to close the site and leave tailings on site, NRC prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

1998

Atlas declared bankruptcy and, in doing so, relinquished its license and forfeited its reclamation bond. NRC appointed Pricewaterhouse-Coopers as the licensee for the site and the trustee of the Moab Mill Reclamation Trust. Trustee initiated tailings dewatering, ground water studies, and millsite cleanup activities.

2000

Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act approved. The act stipulated that the license issued by NRC for the materials at the Moab site be terminated and that the title and responsibility for cleanup be transferred to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

2001

Title of the site transferred to DOE.

2002

DOE prepared a Draft Plan for Remediation for submittal to National Academy of Sciences (NAS); NAS evaluated the costs, risks, and benefits in the plan.

2002–2003

Numerous characterization efforts were conducted to assist DOE in determining the scope of the site reclamation. DOE published the Site Observational Work Plan, which characterizes the site ground water conditions and documents how DOE will demonstrate compliance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ground water standards.

2004

Meetings held with cooperating agencies during preparation of Draft EIS. Draft EIS issued in November.

2005

Public hearings and comment period held on Draft EIS.

Final EIS issued in July.

Remediation alternatives selected and published in Record of Decision in September.

2006

Remedial Action Plan with conceptual design details prepared.

Planned Activities; Timing Dependent on Funding:

NRC concurs with final design and construction begins.

Long-Term Surveillance Plan developed. Site transferred to the DOE Office of Legacy Management for long-term custodial care.