



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

**For Immediate Release
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Update on Moab Mill Tailings Project Recovery Act Progress

Grand Junction, CO — With funding received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, contractors for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project have hired 92 new employees and saved the jobs of 22 current workers, with additional employees starting each week. Under the Recovery Act, the project will ship an additional 2 million tons of mill tailings from Moab to Crescent Junction, Utah by the end of fiscal year 2011, creating or saving 160 total jobs by the fall of 2009. To meet the increase in the quantity of uranium mill tailings to be transported, DOE plans to begin multiple train shipments each day, Monday through Friday, by August 17.

"The funding from the Recovery Act allowed us to accelerate our cleanup efforts and add new jobs, so the community is seeing two major benefits from this legislation," said Donald Metzler, Moab Federal Project Director.

The Moab Project initially planned to make shipments 7 days a week with longer trains to meet the accelerated cleanup goal. However, after further evaluation and discussions with Union Pacific Railroad, DOE and its Remedial Action Contractor, EnergySolutions, decided instead to make multiple train shipments per day. Additional railcars and containers will be added as available to achieve an optimal shipping schedule in November.

Running multiple trains per day avoids weekend mill tailings shipments, which prevents encounters with recreational users at train crossings on those days. The project will begin construction in August on an underpass of State Route 279 that will further reduce interactions between public and project traffic. Construction is anticipated to be completed in November.

(More)

Lighting on the haul road, at the rail load out area, and on top of the tailings pile will be added in compliance with local requirements to extend operations beyond daylight hours. Temporary lighting will be used until permanent light fixtures can be installed this fall.

The project began shipping mill tailings on April 20, 2009. Starting in May, one train shipment of up to 90 containers was made each day, Monday through Thursday. A fifth weekly shipment using Recovery Act funding was added on Fridays starting in mid-June. And as of July 24, a total of about 160,000 tons of mill tailings has been shipped, including 15,000 tons under the Recovery Act. The Recovery Act funding accelerates the estimated project completion date from 2028 to 2025 and with efficiencies DOE hopes to further accelerate the project to completion by 2022.

“We are continually refining our operations to maximize our Recovery Act funds to ship more tailings,” said Metzler.

– DOE –

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