



**For Immediate Release
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DOE Opens New Branch Line Rail at Moab Mill Tailings Site

(Grand Junction, CO) — Today, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) opened a 3,800-foot section of new track above State Route 279 (Potash Road) that will be used as a loading area for upcoming rail shipments of uranium mill tailings from Moab, Utah, to a disposal cell near Crescent Junction, also in Utah.

This portion of the branch line had to be removed to lower the rail bench to an allowable grade for loading railcars that will transport the uranium mill tailings for the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project. The rail bench was lowered 14 feet at its maximum.

The existing track, which had been in place since 1963, was removed in early January 2009. The track is used once a week to service Intrepid Potash, LLC. “We greatly appreciate Intrepid accommodating our track replacement schedule. Our goal was to get them back online as quickly as possible to minimize the disruption to their rail service,” said Moab Federal Project Director Donald Metzler.



New track being installed at rail load out area.

Working collaboratively with Union Pacific Railroad, project contractor *EnergySolutions* was allowed to perform much of the rail work on the hillside that Union Pacific originally planned to do. This accelerated the planned start of mill tailings shipping by almost a month to late April. Installation of a new spur that runs parallel to the branch line is scheduled for completion in mid-March.

– DOE –

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