



## 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.

### 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



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

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

## 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

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## 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?

Improving Our Look.....	1	Waterworks .....	7
Message from the Federal Project Director .....	2	Tailings in Town .....	9
Moab Project Welcomes Three DOE Staff Members .....	2	Emergency Response – Are We Prepared? .....	11
Cleanup of Highway Rights-of-Way and National Park Service Land .....	5	Safety Spotlight .....	12
		How Do I Get Information About the Project? .....	14



## 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 oversized 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



*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.*





















