



Report

on

**Annual Funding Requirements
Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action
Project
Moab, Utah**

**Office of Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy**

July 2009

INTRODUCTION

The report from the House Committee on Appropriations that accompanied the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill, 2009, requested that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) provide a report on the annual funding requirements needed to complete remediation of the Moab inactive uranium milling site (Moab site). The Congressional language stated:

“The Committee directs the Department to provide a report on the annual funding requirements needed to complete remediation of the Moab uranium mill tailings site and removal of the tailings to the Crescent Junction site in Utah no later than the year 2019.”

BACKGROUND

The Moab site, located approximately three miles northwest of the city of Moab in Grand County, Utah, includes the former Atlas uranium milling site, which ceased operations in 1984. The site is situated on the west bank of the Colorado River at the confluence with Moab Wash. The site encompasses 439 acres, of which approximately 130 acres of the western portion is covered by a pile of 16 million tons of uranium mill tailings. Since 2003, the interim remedial action system at the Moab site has captured and prevented more than 137 million gallons of contaminated ground water from reaching the Colorado River.

The overall remedial action strategy for the project is to excavate the uranium mill tailings and other contaminated material from the former Moab mill site and nearby off-site properties (vicinity properties), relocate them approximately 30 miles north to the Crescent Junction disposal site in Utah, and implement active ground water remediation at the Moab site.

Extensive infrastructure construction at the Moab and Crescent Junction sites was completed during FY 2008 and the first half of FY 2009. Excavation of the tailings pile began in mid-February 2009 and tailings shipments using rail to the Crescent Junction site began on April 20, 2009. Eighty-eight containers are currently shipped once daily Monday through Thursday. On June 24, 2009, over 100,000 tons of tailings have been shipped by rail to Crescent Junction and placed in the disposal cell. The project is now averaging 12,000 tons per week of shipped tailings.

With the recent start of tailings shipment in April 2009, the Department is identifying operational efficiencies and evaluating options to maximize the volume of tailings shipped, including increasing the frequency of shipments, the number of shipments each day, and the quantity of material shipped each day.

FUNDING

The total estimated cost to complete the Moab project in 2019 is \$844 million to \$1,084 million¹. Funding above what was planned has been received in 2009. The Omnibus

Appropriations Act of 2009 provided \$10 million over the Department's budget request and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) provided \$108 million for the Moab Project to increase tailings shipments through September 2011 from 12,000 tons per week to 21,000 tons per week. This additional funding permits the acceleration of tailings shipments in the near term through FY 2011.

The table below reflects the funding requirements based on DOE's current evaluation of contractor estimates. Any changes to the assumptions or unforeseen events and circumstances could affect the costs or schedule associated with completing the remediation of the Moab uranium mill tailings site and removal of the tailings to the Crescent Junction site.

**Moab UMTRA Project
UPDATED FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2019 COMPLETION**

	Current Funding Requirements (\$M)
FY 2008	23.7
FY 2009	148¹
FY 2010	31²
FY 2011-FY 2019	641.5 – 881.5
TOTAL	844.2 – 1084.2

¹ Includes the \$40M FY 2009 Omnibus appropriation and \$108M from the Recovery Act.

² FY 2010 Congressional Budget.