

## **May 2020 Steering Committee Project Update**

### **Project Status**

The Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project has shipped nearly 10.6 million tons of mill tailings from the former mill site to the Crescent Junction disposal cell site. That represents about 66% of the estimated total of 16 million tons.

COVID-19: Onsite activities have remained operational since the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Project's overall mission has been largely unaffected by the virus, with the three locations all remaining fully operational. Grand County, Utah's case count has remained very low and staff as a whole were able to continue working because they protected themselves from the virus. Management was able to: implement social distancing where it didn't exist before, allow for remote work where possible, increase cleaning and sanitations practices, encourage voluntary use of face coverings, and set restrictions on the size of gatherings and travel between sites. Only a few employees quarantined out of an abundance of caution. There have been no positive tests for the virus. The safety protocols will continue although some teleworking staff have returned to their regular duty stations. DOE will continually monitor and assess local conditions and adjust operations if necessary.

### **Snow Pack / Colorado River**

The Project evaluates the snowpack and the potential for spring runoff from the Upper Colorado River Basin. Most of the season, snowpack was tracking at average levels or slightly above. Due to limited precipitation this spring, the snowpack is now below average. The Colorado River's flow volume is expected to be near average. Because average river runoff still presents the possibility for water to enter parts of the Moab site, the Project anticipates minor flooding may occur in an uncontaminated area, but significantly less than last year.

### **Sustainability / Environment**

Recently, the Project began using a "burn box" at the Moab site to aid in revegetation management. A burn box resembles a large dumpster with double walls, ports for ventilation, and a lid. It's designed to contain vegetative debris while it burns. The Bureau of Land Management has loaned the burn box to the Project. Over the years, the Project has dealt with vegetative waste in several ways: burning it on the ground in place or in piles, hauling it to the county's landfill, or composting it. The burn box is a better way to handle larger debris such as tree trunks and stumps. It allows the Project to use ash from the burn to supplement the compost and help improve the site's soil. Other advantages include: an increase of the combustion temperature which leads to a more complete burn and produces less smoke and lower emissions, and it's easier to control on site. The vegetative debris comes from the site's remediated areas and not from contaminated areas.