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Utah Supports DOE Decision to Move Moab Tailings Pile

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. today announced his support of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) decision to move the Moab tailings pile to Crescent Junction located 30 miles north of Moab and 15 miles east of Green River.

“This is exciting news for Utah,” said Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. “The DOE and Secretary Bodman are proving that they are willing to listen and work with us to find a reasonable solution for the mill tailings that pose a very real threat to the Colorado River and downstream water users. We appreciate their attention to this most pressing environmental need.”

This decision reflects the tremendous efforts of a stakeholder group to reach a workable solution where Grand County, Moab City and various state and federal agencies contributed to this positive outcome.

“The State of Utah is thrilled with the decision DOE has made,” said Utah Department of Environmental Quality Executive Director Dianne Nielson. “The work on uranium mill tailings reflects years of cooperation at the local, state and federal level and with stakeholders. Agencies have provided good science and careful evaluation to support moving the tailings pile from the banks of the Colorado River. This is an essential and welcomed next step to improving the environment and protecting public health.”

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