

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4402

May 05, 2011

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0800

Dear Secretary Chu,

I am writing regarding the status of the Department of Energy's Moab tailings remediation project. To date the project is ahead of schedule and on budget, with nearly 4 million of the 16 million tons of tailings moved to the permanent storage site in Crescent Junction. However, there is still a long road ahead if cleanup is to be completed by its statutory deadline of 2019, as required by the FY08 National Defense Authorization Act. As you know, this 2019 deadline was derived from the DOE's final Environmental Impact Statement on the project.

I am concerned that the Moab UMTRA Project Ten-Year Site Plan for Fiscal Years 2011-2020, released in May 2010, states a project completion date of 2025 – six years past the 2019 statutory deadline.

1. Does DOE acknowledge the 2019 deadline established by the FY08 National Defense Authorization Act?
2. What is the Department's plan to ensure this project is completed by 2019, including preliminary budget requests for future fiscal years and expected volume of tailings to be shipped each calendar year?
3. With the current contract for cleanup of the tailings expiring this year, I understand DOE is in the process of receiving bids for a new contract. Can you update me on the status of the new contract, including the length of the contract and if you expect any delays in cleanup because of the new solicitation?

Thank you for your prompt response to these questions. I look forward to working with you to ensure that the tailings removal in Moab is carried out in a safe, environmentally sound, and timely manner.

Sincerely,



JIM MATHESON
Member of Congress