Project Location and Background

The OIG Buckmaster Project, in Emery County, involved reclamation of forty-six (46) abandoned uranium mine openings within the historic San Rafael River Mining District. The project area is located east of the San Rafael River about 12 miles west of Green River, Utah. The project was prioritized through an inventory of hazardous abandoned mines initiated by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Price Field Office. Project funding was provided by the BLM, Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement (OSMRE) and Department of Energy (DOE).

Left: Trackhoe filling hazardous abandoned shaft
Right: pinned grate on adit once lived in by miners

The AMRP in the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, Utah Department of Natural Resources, was created in 1983 to address physical safety hazards associated with abandoned mines as authorized by the Surface Mining Reclamation and Control Act (SMCRA) of 1977. The Program is funded by The Utah Coal Producers who pay an abandoned mine reclamation fee to the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) on each ton of coal mined in Utah.

Owner:
Bureau of Land Management

General Contractor:
The Xcavation Company

AMRP Project Manager:
Seth Button
OIG Buckmaster Project, 2020 -- Construction Summary

The Xcavation Company Inc. in Kamas, Utah, was awarded the contract for the project. The work included machine and hand backfills of hazardous uranium openings, rebar barricades to safeguard declines or faceup trenches, pinned grates, some of which are bat-compatible, and polyurethane foam (PUF) shaft closures. Disturbance areas were pocked and reseeded.

Below: Backfilled adit (horizontal opening) in trench, historic chute structure.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

Project Cost:  
Bid Amount $155,319.00  
Final Amount $158,711.48

Change Orders:  
1 – $3,392.48  
deleted tasks not required, made quantity adjustments, and added barricade to mitigate physical safety hazards

Project Dates:  
Start: November 9, 2020  
Finish: December 4, 2020  
17 Work Days  
21 Calendar Days

Accomplishments:  
-Safeguarded 46 uranium mine openings in an area popular with visitors  
-26 machine backfills  
-15 pinned grates  
-4 PUF closures  
-1 hand backfill  
-Avoided adverse effects to sensitive species and historic and paleontological resources