

AEC Tentatively Schedules Nuclear Detonation on Amchitka

An underground nuclear detonation to determine the suitability of Amchitka Island in the Aleutians for larger underground nuclear tests is tentatively scheduled for the fall of 1969.

The calibration event will be denoted at the bottom of a 4,000 foot drilled hole. It will be the first nuclear detonation on Amchitka Island by the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.

An earlier 80-kiloton test, Long Shot, was conducted in October of 1965 under the sponsorship of the Department of Defense.

Drilling of the emplacement

hole has been completed. The hole is now being cased with a steel liner.

The yield of the test will be in the same range as the events of larger yield conducted in Nevada.

The calibration test has been scheduled so any effects of ground motion on the environment can be studied. The experiment is designed to avoid release of radioactivity to the environment.

Two additional emplacement holes are being constructed on Amchitka for possible use after the calibration test.