

AEC Contractors to Employ Natives in Amchitka Drilling

JUNEAU—Employment of native Alaskans in a drilling program being conducted on Amchitka Island is the Aleutians for the Atomic Energy Commission should "increase substantially," Gov. Walter J. Hickel said this week, as a result of a joint program finalized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the University of Alaska, and Parco Inc., the AEC drilling contractor.

Parco officials, who have

had difficulty locating native workers with knowledge of drilling methods and operations, recently became aware of a BIA program for training mining and oil technicians at the University of Alaska, the governor said.

The program calls for the employment assistance branch of the BIA to select 12 young native Alaskan men each year for a year of training at the university.

(Continued on page 8)

Amchitka . . .

(Continued from page 1)

In a letter to the governor, C. R. Stewart of Las Vegas, Nev. Parco's manager, commented, "we are highly impressed with the BIA mining and oil technician's program conducted by the university.

"We feel it is an excellent and realistic approach to the situation. We also feel that we can benefit by the program as well as provide benefit to it."

The students' course work is to include basic mathematics, drafting, general science, geology, english, mining and prospecting, surveying, milling and mineralogy.

The program is designed to give the students a basic knowledge of terms and procedures and to teach them the skills needed for placement with mining and petroleum firms.

The governor said Parco Inc. has agreed to cooperate in the program by accepting, during the next few months, the six available trainees from the class which completed the university course last month.