



Nevada Site Office News

News Media Contact:

Kelly Snyder, 702-683-0601

snyderk@nv.doe.gov

Judy Miller, Office of

Legacy Management

907-248-6363

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U.S. Department of Energy Announces Plans for Long-Term Maintenance and Surveillance on Amchitka Island

Three historical nuclear testing sites on Amchitka Island will formally enter the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Legacy Management program on October 1, 2006. This phase marks the completion of environmental restoration activities on the island and transfers responsibility for long-term maintenance and surveillance to the DOE's Office of Legacy Management.

To ensure that interested stakeholders are aware of the inter-departmental transition and are provided an opportunity to meet with U.S. Department of Energy staff, the Office of Legacy Management and the Office of Environmental Management will host a Community Open House and Discussion on July 26 at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel located at 401 E. Sixth Avenue in Anchorage, Alaska.

The Community Open House, scheduled from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., will provide attendees with the opportunity to review and discuss informational exhibits and speak one-on-one with U.S. Department of Energy staff. Beginning at 7:00 p.m., the U.S. Department of Energy will provide briefings related to historic nuclear testing activities, subsequent environmental restoration accomplishments, and the approach to future long-term monitoring. The public will also be provided ample time for questions, comments, and discussion.

From 1965-1971, three underground nuclear tests were conducted on Amchitka Island as part of our nation's overall approach to defense, and to improve the ability to distinguish the ability to detect related seismic activity from that of an earthquake. Today, the island's 22,000 acres are part of the National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness Area. This designation conserves fish and wildlife populations habitat; fulfills international treaty obligations; supplements a program of national and international marine resource scientific research, and strives to ensure water quality within the refuge.