

# Amchitka Test Delayed as Scientific Critics Insist Its Planned Weapons System Is Flawed

By WALLACE TURNER  
Special to The New York Times  
ANCHORAGE, Nov. 2—The Atomic Energy Commission announced today that it could not hold its Cannikin nuclear test on Amchitka Island before Saturday because of delays in filling the 6,000-foot hole in which the bomb is buried.

The preparations for the controversial test have taken more than four years at a cost of about \$200-million, and it will all be blown up in one tenth of a second in an attempt to perfect a warhead for an antiballistic missile system.

The hydrogen bomb, rated at five megatons potential by its designers (equivalent to five million tons of TNT), is the product of years of design work

and testing with smaller ver-  
cations made on the same design  
principles. Scientific critics of  
the test have said the bomb  
will work, and the test can  
be done safely, but that the  
weapons system for which it  
is designed has fatal flaws.

A carefully drawn statement  
prepared by the Atomic Energy  
Commission has described the  
Cannikin bomb as "the most  
intricate and complicated con-  
figuration ever undertaken in  
the weapons program" and has  
said that it "is different from  
any other nuclear weapon ever  
produced."

Further, schools of salmon  
from all the rivers of Asia  
and North America that feed  
into the North Pacific spend a  
part of their growing months  
in the western Aleutians. Any  
radiation pollution conceivably  
could be concentrated in them  
and spoil that valuable fishery.

Scientists for the commission  
insist that there is virtually no  
chance that the bomb test could  
touch off an earthquake, and  
they also insist that he explo-  
sion will be safely confined in  
its cavern 6,000 feet below the  
surface.

Most unstable subsurface struc-  
tures in the world. Earthquakes  
of considerable magnitude are  
frequent there.

While most of the public  
opposing the  
demonstrations

test have been based on op-  
position to environmental pol-  
lution risks, within the rela-  
tively small community of phy-  
sicists who understand the  
theories and purposes of Can-  
nikin an entirely different cri-  
terion has been made.

This is that the bomb is be-  
ing designed and tested for a  
weapons system that will not  
work. This is the Spartan anti-  
ballistic missile of the Safe-  
guard protective shield for the  
Minuteman missile silos in  
Montana and North Dakota.

Qualified sources have said  
that the commission has al-  
ready tested smaller versions  
of the Cannikin warhead at the  
Nevada test site.

The sources also said that  
the Department of Defense,  
which will operate the Spartan  
system, has directed other tests  
in which materials that could  
be used in warheads were ex-  
posed to smaller versions of the  
Cannikin bomb.

and that antiballistic missile  
bombs fired to destroy the first  
wave of incoming missiles would  
create secrets of radioactive  
material that will blind radar  
that would direct subsequent  
firings.

One critic is Dr. Wolfgang  
K. H. Panofsky, director of the  
Stanford Linear Accelerator  
Center at Palo Alto, Calif. Dr.  
Panofsky said in an interview  
that the Spartan system would  
not be able to differentiate be-  
tween decoys and incoming  
rockets, that its warheads would  
be extended to destroy each other,

Federal Judge Raymond Plum-  
mer dismissed today a suit by  
the Aleut League seeking to  
block the test planned for Am-  
chitka. Judge Raymond Plum-  
mer delivered a 38-page deci-  
sion in the civil complaint  
against the Atomic Energy  
Commission. He held that the  
league had failed to prove its  
contentions in seeking to stop  
the test.

Third Appeal Filed  
WASHINGTON, Nov. 2 (UPI)  
—Conservation groups filed a  
third court appeal today seek-  
ing to halt the Amchitka test.  
David L. Sive, attorney for  
the Committee for Nuclear Re-  
sponsibility and six other  
groups, took his case to the  
United States Court of Appeals  
for the District of Columbia. A  
hearing could come tomorrow.

Suit Is Dismissed  
ANCHORAGE, Nov. 2 (AP)—