



Minor Activity at North Korea's Nuclear Test Site

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Airbus satellite imagery dated Friday, April 22 and Monday April 25, 2016, show minor signs of activity at North Korea's Punggye-ri nuclear test site. The only noteworthy signature visible today, Monday, April 25, 2016, is the presence of carts on the tracks of the North Portal's spoil pile. These carts usually contain material excavated from the portal's tunnel. In theory, the presence of these carts could indicate that excavation activities are taking place. However, there is no evidence that the carts are being used. Moreover, trucks, vehicles, or personnel are not visible at the North Portal. The only exception is the presence of a cart or possible vehicle at the tunnel entrance (see figure 1).

No vehicles, personnel, or other signs of external activity are visible at the South Portal, at the main support area, or at the location of North Korea's possible new portal (see figures 1 and 2).

Since North Korea [announced](#) plans for a "nuclear warhead explosion test" in mid-March, which could imply a fifth nuclear test, a significant number of vehicles and equipment have reportedly been spotted at the Punggye-ri test site. However, none of these signatures are present as of Friday, April 22 and Monday, April 25, 2016. This analysis is consistent with more recent [reporting](#) from Friday, April 22 highlighting the lack of activity at the test site. The reporting stated that North Korea had completed all activities necessary for its fifth nuclear test. No test has occurred so far but a fifth nuclear test remains of concern.



Figure 1. Airbus imagery showing North Korea's nuclear test site on April 25, 2016.



Figure 2. Airbus imagery showing North Korea's nuclear test site on April 22, 2016.