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**UPDATE:  
DEVELOPMENTS AT THE  
DPRK'S PUNGGYE-RI  
NUCLEAR TEST SITE  
BETWEEN 14 AND  
20 APRIL 2022**

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# **UPDATE: DEVELOPMENTS AT THE DPRK'S PUNGGYE-RI NUCLEAR TEST SITE BETWEEN 14 AND 20 APRIL 2022**

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In previous publications dated 28 March, 6 April and 14 April 2022, ONN reported signs of increasing activities within the Punggye-ri nuclear test site of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), especially at the secondary entrance to Tunnel 3 (also known as the South Portal).<sup>1</sup>

New satellite images from 19 and 20 April 2022 showed further developments at this site, including the following (Figures 1-3).

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## I. TUNNEL 3

Recent images suggest that the area in front of the secondary entrance to Tunnel 3 has been expanded and that the ground has been leveled. Further tunneling activities may require the introduction of additional heavy vehicles or instrumentation support, for which a reinforced surface area could be required. No evidence was identified showing expansion of the spoil pile near the secondary entrance since the last report; this may indicate that Tunnel 3 excavation activities have slowed or stalled. Specifically, the following new developments near the

secondary entrance to Tunnel 3 have been observed since 14 April 2022:

- New structure at a location previously used as a dumping point for newly excavated spoil;
- Surface leveling and possible road construction activities;
- New square object visible as of 19 April 2022, assessed as possibly an awning; and
- Signs of streambed restoration, perhaps for flood control during the rainy season.<sup>2</sup>

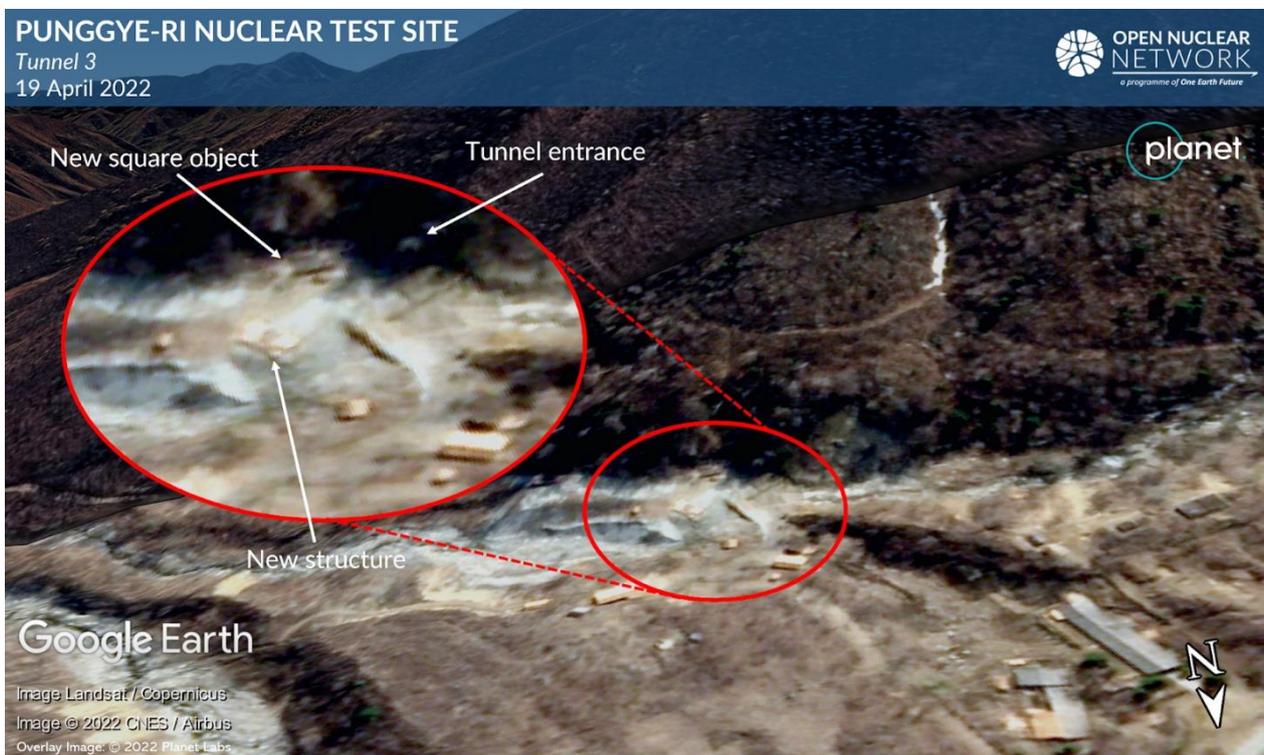


Figure 1: Area in front of secondary entrance to Tunnel 3 as of 19 April 2022, overlaid on Google Earth and draped over Google Earth's terrain model.

Overlay image: © 2022 Planet Labs. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted by permission.

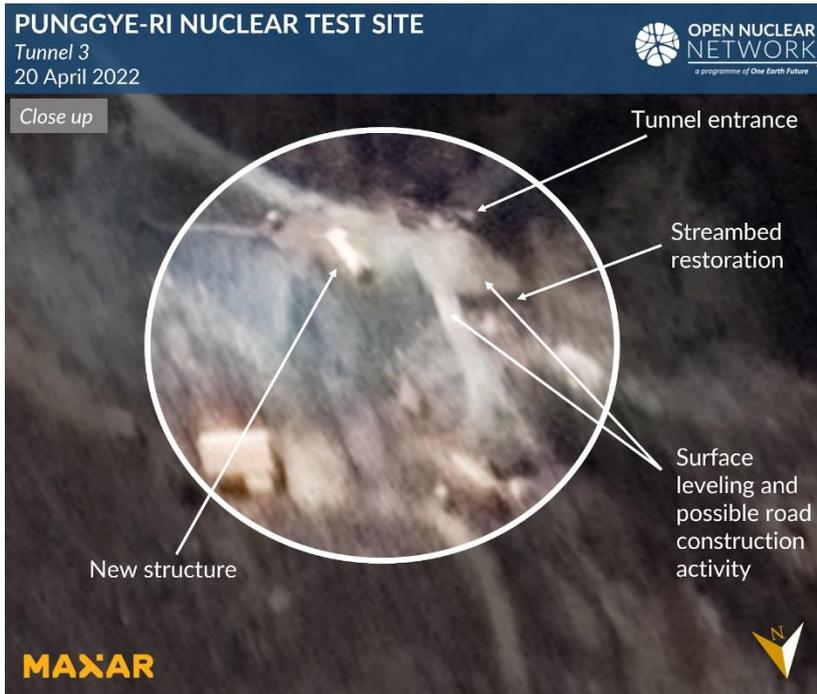


Figure 2: Close up of the area in front of secondary entrance to Tunnel 3 as of 20 April 2022.

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Figure 3: Comparison of the area in front of secondary entrance to Tunnel 3 as of 19 September 2014 and 20 April 2022.

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## II. MAIN ADMINISTRATIVE AREA

Visible changes to previously noted log piles suggest that renovation activities are ongoing, albeit at a slow pace relative to recent construction in the area.

### III. TUNNELS 1, 2 AND 4

No excavation nor other noteworthy activity has been observed in satellite imagery available as of 20 April 2022 at Tunnels 1, 2 and 4 (also known as the East Portal, the North Portal and the West Portal respectively).

## ENDNOTES

- 1 Katsuhisa Furukawa, "Developments at the DPRK's Punggye-Ri Nuclear Weapon Test Site since December 2021," Open Nuclear Network, 28 March 2022, available at: <https://opennuclear.org/publication/developments-dprks-punggye-ri-nuclear-weapon-test-site-december-2021>. Katsuhisa Furukawa and Jaewoo Shin, "Update: Developments at the DPRK's Punggye-Ri Nuclear Weapon Test Site between 24 March and 6 April 2022," Open Nuclear Network, 6 April 2022, available at: <https://opennuclear.org/en-gb/node/1638>. Jaewoo Shin and Katsuhisa Furukawa, "Update: Developments at the DPRK's Punggye-Ri Nuclear Test Site between 6 and 14 April 2022," Open Nuclear Network, 14 April 2022, available at: <https://opennuclear.org/publication/update-developments-dprks-punggye-ri-nuclear-test-site-between-6-and-14-april-2022>
- 2 Peter Makowsky, Frank Pabian and Jack Liu, "North Korea's Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site: Evidence of Typhoon Damage," 38 North, 24 September 2020, available at: <https://www.38north.org/2020/09/punggye092420/>. 38 North, "Preparations for a Possible Third Nuclear Test Continue; Complications from Water Buildup?", 38 North, 27 December 2012, available at: <https://www.38north.org/2012/12/punggyeri122812/>

## ONE EARTH FUTURE

[oneearthfuture.org](http://oneearthfuture.org)     

One Earth Future Foundation (OEF) is an incubator of innovative peacebuilding programs that designs, tests, and partners to scale programs that work hand-in-hand with those most affected by conflict to eliminate the root causes of war. We believe in a world beyond war, where sustainable peace is truly possible.

## OPEN NUCLEAR NETWORK

[opennuclear.org](http://opennuclear.org) 

One Earth Future's Open Nuclear Network programme is a non-aligned, non-governmental entity that seeks to increase security for all States by ensuring that nuclear decision makers have access to high quality, shareable open source information which enables them to make the best decisions in the face of escalating conflict.

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