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nuclear explosions at Azgir Test Site (West Kazakhstan)

Between 1965 and 1987, 39 peaceful underground nuclear explosions were conducted by the USSR on the territory of Kazakhstan, 17 of them at the Azgir Test Site, located in Western Kazakhstan. The Test Site is located on the Bolshoi Azgir salt-dome uplift, on the western part of the Pre-Caspian saline province located north of the Caspian Sea. At the Azgir Test Site, for research purposes, in order to work out the technology of creating underground cavities for various purposes, the peaceful nuclear explosions (PNE) were carried out in the rock salt massif (1966-1979). As a result, 9 underground cavities of different volume and depth were created.

The report considers the dynamic and kinematic parameters of PNE records conducted at Azgir, recorded by seismic stations on the territory of the USSR (the CSE network of IPE RAS) at epicentral distances from 770 to 6500 km. A total of ~300 historical analogue seismograms were measured. In addition, data on the geological and tectonic settings of the test site were collected as well as on the current state of the technological sites where the tests were conducted. The manifestations of modern seismicity in the vicinity of the Test Site were investigated.

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