

AEC

U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT OFFICE OF TEST INFORMATION
Washington 25, D. C.

408833

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Thursday, June 26, 1958)

**DANGER AREA FOR JOHNSTON ISLAND NUCLEAR TESTS ANNOUNCED;
UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY PROHIBITED**

As part of the safety precautions for the forthcoming nuclear tests at Johnston Island, a surface danger area around the island will be established effective July 25, 1958.

On May 2, 1958, it was announced that certain short range defensive missiles with nuclear warheads would be fired from Johnston Island, as part of the HARDTACK series of nuclear tests in the Pacific. Johnston Island is located about 540 statute miles southwest of the nearest inhabited island of the Hawaiian chain and about 900 statute miles from the next nearest inhabited island.

All ships are cautioned to remain clear of an area bounded by a circle of 400 nautical mile radius centered at the following geographic coordinates:

Longitude 169° 31' West
Latitude 16° 45' North.

It is estimated that the surface danger area will remain in effect for a period of approximately three or four weeks. Notice of the establishment of the danger area is being given the widest possible distribution through marine and international organizations.

An air danger area will be established by warnings to aircraft issued by the Civil Aeronautics Administration shortly before the firing time planned for each test. This will permit maximum utilization of the area by normal air traffic.

Unauthorized entry into the danger area surrounding Johnston Island by U. S. citizens and all other persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States is prohibited beginning July 25, 1958.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

(none)
REPOSITORY NARA Colley Park
COLLECTION RG 326 51-58 beam
BOX No. 182 (NN3-326-93-01)
FOLDER NRA 7 Hardtack v4

The action is taken through an amendment of an Atomic Energy Commission regulation issued April 11, 1958, which prohibits such persons from entering around the Eniwetok Proving Ground. The amendment is effective from July 25, 1958, until the disestablishment of the Johnston Island danger area. As amended, the regulation prohibits entry, attempted entry or conspiracy to enter the Johnston Island danger area.

The amendment to Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 112 was filed today with the Federal Register. A copy is attached.

Attachment

62658

U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
TITLE 10 - ATOMIC ENERGY
CHAPTER 1 - ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
PART 112 - HARDTACK NUCLEAR TEST SERIES, 1958

On June 26, 1958, the Atomic Energy Commission issued public notice of the danger area to be established July 25, 1958, in connection with the forthcoming phase of the HARDTACK nuclear test series to be conducted in the area surrounding Johnston Island. The efficient and early completion of this test series, the initial phase of which is currently in progress at the Eniwetok Proving Ground in the Marshall Islands, is of major importance to the defense of the United States and of the free world.

To avoid any unnecessary delay or interruption of this test activity, and to protect the health and safety of the public, the Atomic Energy Commission is issuing the following amendments to Part 112, which amendments will be effective until the HARDTACK test series is completed.

In view of the relationship of these tests to the national defense, the potential hazard to the health and safety of individuals who enter the danger area, and the early starting date of the tests, the Atomic Energy Commission has found that general notice of proposed rule making and public procedure thereon would be contrary to the public interest; and that good cause exists why these rules should be made effective without the customary period of notice.

Pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, Public Law 404, 79th Congress, 2d Session, the following amendments are published as a document subject to codification, to be effective upon filing with the Federal Register;

AUTHORITY: Issued under Sec. 161, 68 Stat. 948, as amended; 42 U.S.C. 2201. Interpret or apply Secs. 2, 3, 91, 68 Stat. 921, as amended, 922, 936; 42 U.S.C. 2012, 2013, 2121. For the purposes of Sec. 223, 68 Stat. 958; 42 U.S.C. 2273, Sec. 112.4 issued under Sec. 1611, 68 Stat. 949, 42 U.S.C. 2201 (1).

1. Sec. 112.3 is amended as follows:
Sec. 112.3 Definitions: As used in this part:

(more)

(a) "Danger area" means the following:

- (1) That area established, effective April 5, 1958, encompassing the Bikini and Eniwetok Atolls, Marshall Islands and which is bounded by a line joining the following geographic coordinates:

18° 30' N., 156° 00' E.
18° 30' N., 170° 00' E.
11° 30' N., 170° 00' E.
11° 30' N., 166° 16' E.
10° 15' N., 166° 16' E.
10° 15' N., 156° 00' E.

- (2) That area established, effective July 25, 1958, encompassing Johnston Island and which is a circle of 400 nautical miles radius centered at the following geographic coordinates: longitude 169° 31' 00' West and latitude 16° 45' 00' North.

(b) "HARDTACK test series" means that series of nuclear tests conducted and to be conducted by the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense at the Eniwetok Proving Ground and at Johnston Island, within the danger areas as defined in paragraph (a) of this section, which tests began in April 1958 and will end at an announced time during the calendar year 1958.

2. Sec. 112.4 is amended as follows:

Sec. 112.4 Prohibition. No United States citizen or other person who is within the scope of this part shall enter, attempt to enter, conspire to enter or remain in either of the defined danger areas (Sec. 112.3 (a)) during the continuation of the HARDTACK test series, except with the express approval of appropriate officials of the Atomic Energy Commission or the Department of Defense.

3. The Part head of this part is hereby amended to read as follows: "HARDTACK Nuclear Test Series, 1958".