

**AEC**

*MRA-7 Redwood  
W.C. Cool  
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UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
Washington 25, D. C.

409673

No. 790  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(Thursday, March 1, 1956)

**AEC ANNOUNCES DANGER AREA IN PACIFIC FOR NUCLEAR TESTS**

As part of the safety precautions for the forthcoming nuclear tests at the Eniwetok Proving Ground, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission today issued public notice of the danger area which will be established in the North Pacific Ocean effective April 20, 1956.

This notice is being given the widest possible distribution through marine, aviation, and international organizations.

The area is generally rectangular in shape and comprises roughly 375,000 nautical square miles. While slightly smaller than the danger zone used in the latter part of the 1954 series, it is many times larger than the initial area used in 1954 and has been reoriented slightly for increased safety.

Lewis L. Strauss, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, has announced that the forthcoming series of tests will involve weapons generally smaller in yield than those tested during the 1954 test series. It is anticipated that the energy release of the largest test will be substantially below that of the maximum 1954 test.

There will be a post operation radiological survey of the control area. Although it is estimated that most, if not all, of the area will be released from control by the end of August 1956, it is not now possible to fix a final effective date.

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Effective April 20, all ships, aircraft and personnel are cautioned to remain clear of the area enclosed by the following geographic coordinates:

18° 30' N 158° 00' E - 18° 30' N 172° 00' E - 11°  
30' N 172° 00' E - 11° 30' N 166° 16' E - 10°  
15' N 166° 16' E - 10° 15' N 158° 00' E extending  
North to 18° 30' N 158° 00' E.