

THE RUNIT ISLAND WASTE CONTAINMENT STRUCTURE (RUNIT DOME)

Key Facts

Project: Enewetak Radiological Cleanup Project

Responsible Agency: U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)

Built: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Personnel: Approximately 1000 personnel forming part of the on-atoll cleanup task force

Construction date: 1978-1980

Total cost: ~US\$100 Million (estimated full cost of the Enewetak cleanup and rehabilitation program, 1972-1980)

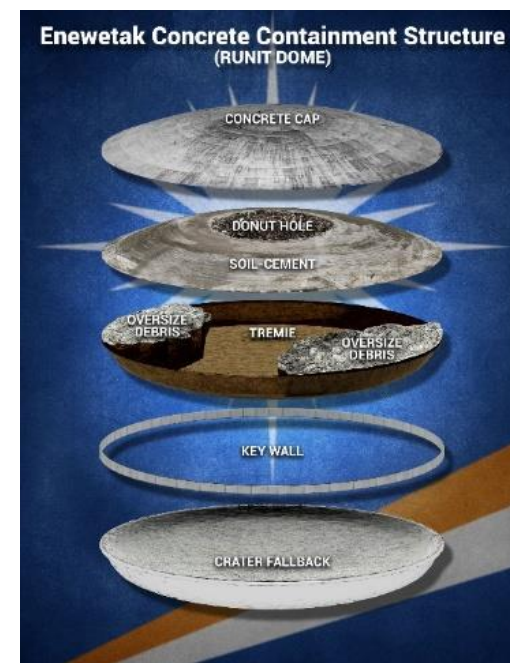
Volume: 83,000 cubic meters

Contents: Soil-cement grout, encapsulated oversize soil and debris, dumped legacy equipment, structural steel, concrete and other forms of debris

Estimated radionuclide inventory: 545 GBq TRU (plutonium isotopes + americium-241) waste not accounting for any associated fission and activation products

Location: Cactus crater, Runit Island, Enewetak Atoll (N 11.69713°; E 165.27420°)

Cratering Event: Operation Hardtack I, 18 kt surface nuclear test conducted on 05/05/1958



By order of the Enewetak/Ujelang Local Government (EULG):

Runit Island is to remain OFF LIMITS. This self-governing ordinance has been in force since the early 1980s and was developed to protect people from being exposed to residual radioactive contamination on the island, especially from elevated levels of plutonium contamination in subsurface soil. Please avoid use of the land and all activities that could lead to resuspension of contaminated dust particles in the air that you breathe. There is little or no risk from walking around the containment structure. Any cracks appearing in the concrete cap are not a site for leakage of radioactive contamination nor of elevated external or internal human radiation exposure. There are no restrictions on fishing from the shoreline or on human consumption of fish caught near Runit Island at this time. Under no circumstances are you to disturb or interfere with the borehole well enclosures placed on or off the containment structure or paint graffiti on the concrete.

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