



**REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
NATIONAL NUCLEAR COMMISSION
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August 15, 2019

Official Press Release re: Manhattan Project Beer Company's Release of "Bikini Atoll Beer".

There is a great deal of outrage in the Marshall Islands about the Manhattan Project Beer Company's creation and release of Bikini Atoll beer. The beer cans for this particular brew prominently feature the name, and a map of Bikini Atoll. The Manhattan Project Beer Company did not consult with the Bikini people nor ask for permission to make money off the use of their homelands.

The anger of the Marshallese people is understandable. This is just another example of an American entity profiting from the appropriation of names and places that do not belong to them. Bikini is not a beer, a bathing suit, or the home of SpongeBob Squarepants. It is the ancestral homelands of the Bikinian people who cannot reside there today because of lingering radiation from U.S. nuclear weapons tests conducted on the islands during the Cold War.

For American consumers of Bikini Atoll beer who live far away from the radiation and devastation created in the Marshall Islands by the United States, the imagery on the can associated with the Bikini Atoll can may be entertaining, interesting, or perhaps even funny. The Marshallese people who are upset by this frivolous use of Bikini's name, however, know firsthand the devastation, injuries, and damages associated with U.S. Government activities on Bikini Atoll; these are everyday realities.

The National Nuclear Commission (NNC) of the Republic of the Marshall Islands calls on the Manhattan Project Beer Company to engage in dialogue with the people of Bikini to hear directly from community members about their reactions to their product. The NNC appreciates that the Manhattan Project Beer Company includes a link on its website to help educate people about residual radiation levels on Bikini, and the NNC calls on the Manhattan Project Beer Company to increase its public education efforts; the NNC would be pleased to collaborate with the Manhattan Project Beer Company in this area. Finally, the NNC calls on the Manhattan Project Beer Company to consider the many ways that Americans continue to profit and benefit from U.S. interests in Bikini Atoll, and to consider profit-sharing and responses that recognize the rights of the Bikinian people.