

River nuclear power plant located at the end of the Florida Power Corporation Channel and the Demory Gap Channel, Crystal River, Florida.

Security Zone for Sunshine Skyway Bridge, Tampa, FL (66 FR 65838, December 21, 2001). This temporary rule created temporary fixed security zones 100 feet around all bridge supports and rocky outcroppings at the base of the supports for the Sunshine Skyway Bridge in Tampa Bay.

Security Zone Tampa, FL (67 FR 8196, February 22, 2002). This temporary rule created security zones 100 yards around moored vessels carrying or transferring Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Anhydrous Ammonia (NH₃) and/or grade "A" and "B" flammable liquid cargo.

Security Zone Cruise Ships Tampa, FL (67 FR 10618, March 8, 2002). This temporary rule created security zones 100 yards around cruise ships moored in the Port of Tampa.

Security Zone St. Petersburg Harbor, FL (67 FR 36098, May 23, 2002). This temporary rule established fixed security zones 100 feet around seawalls, moorings, and vessels at Coast Guard and waterfront facilities and moorings in St. Petersburg Harbor, FL.

Security Zone, Port of Tampa, Tampa, FL (67 FR 40861; June 14, 2002). This temporary zone created a security zone 50 yards from the shore or seawall and encompassing all piers around facilities in the following locations: Port Sutton, East Bay, Hooker's Point, Sparkman Channel, Ybor Channel and portions of Garrison Channel. Also, Port Sutton Channel is closed.

Security Zones Tampa Bay and Crystal River, FL (67 FR 42483, June 24, 2002). This temporary rule established 10 security zones in Tampa Bay, Tampa, Florida, and Crystal River, Florida until October 31, 2002.

On October 30, 2002, the Captain of the Port issued a temporary final rule [COTP TAMPA-02-131] continuing security zones in these areas until 11:59 p.m. February 28, 2003. And on January 10, 2003, the COTP published a notice of proposed rulemaking for permanent security zones in these and other areas (68 FR 7093). The comment period on that proposed rule is open until April 14, 2003.

Discussion of Rule

This temporary rule establishes security zones in areas covered by past temporary rules to ensure consistent security of facilities, vessels, and infrastructure throughout the Tampa Captain of the Port Zone. There are changes, however, from previous security zones:

The coordinates of the security zone for Crystal River, FL have been changed because the original coordinates did not accurately match the intended security zone.

The scope of the security zone around the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, Tampa, FL, has been reduced to allow for fishing in portions of the zone. The zone extends from pier 88 to 135 and out 100 feet from bridge supports or rocky outcroppings at the base of the bridge.

The security zones for moored vessels carrying or transferring Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Anhydrous Ammonia (NH₃) and/or grade "A" and "B" flammable liquid cargo requires any vessel transiting within 200 yards of moored vessels carrying or transferring Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Anhydrous Ammonia (NH₃) and/or grade "A" and "B" cargo must proceed through the area at the minimum speed necessary to maintain safe navigation. These security zones exclude entry within 100 yards of tank vessels carrying the specified cargoes moored in Port Tampa.

The security zones around moored cruise ships in Tampa, FL have been expanded to include moored cruise ships in Port Manatee and Port Saint Petersburg. Additionally, the Coast Guard intends to change this security zone by adding that any vessel transiting within 200 yards of a moored cruise ship must proceed through the area at the minimum speed necessary to maintain safe navigation. These security zones exclude entry within 100 yards of moored cruise ships in Port Tampa, located in Ybor Channel, Ybor Turning Basin, and East Bay, ships in Port Manatee, or Saint Petersburg Harbor (Bayboro Harbor).

The security zone in St. Petersburg Harbor, FL has been extended from 100 feet from seawalls, moorings, and moored vessels to 50 yards to be the same as other security zones in the bay protecting similar infrastructure. The security zone has also been expanded on its northern boundary to the west to include Port of Saint Petersburg Cruise Ship Terminal. The coordinates of the security zone for St. Petersburg Harbor, FL have also been corrected because the original coordinates did not accurately match the intended security zone. This zone covers north and south Coast Guard moorings and facilities and Saint Petersburg Cruise Ship Terminals.

The 50 yard zones around piers and facilities in Port Tampa, Port Sutton, East Bay, Hooker's Point, Hillsborough Bay Cut "C", Sparkman Channel, Ybor Turning Basin, and Ybor Channel have been extended to include northern reaches of Ybor Channel and Cruise

Terminals 3 and 6. The coordinates of the security zone have also been changed because the original coordinates did not accurately match the intended security zone.

The security zone around moving cruise ships, Tampa, FL, has been expanded to 200 yards, allowing vessels to transit the outer 100 yards of the zone but requiring transiting vessels to proceed at minimum speed to maintain safe navigation. This change matches safety zone requirements for moored cruise ships. These zones will be in place from the "T" Sea Buoy to berth on an inbound transit and from berth to the "T" Sea Buoy on outbound transits.

A new security zone has been created restricting entrance to the immediate area surrounding the LPG facility and the pier at Rattlesnake, Tampa, FL. The security zone commences at position 27°53.32' N, 082°32.05' W and extends north to 27°53.36' N, 082°32.05' W encompassing all waters east and south of this line in Rattlesnake, Tampa, Florida.

A new security zone has been created restricting entrance to the channel servicing the petroleum facilities and piers at Old Port Tampa, FL. The security zone is bounded by the following points: 27°51.62' N, 082°33.14' W east to 27°51.71' N, 082°32.5' W north to 27°51.76' N, 082°32.5' W west to 27°51.73' N, 082°33.16' W and south to 27°51.62' N, 082°33.14' W closing off the Old Port Tampa channel.

A new security zone has been created restricting access to the Big Bend Power Facility. The security zone extends 50 yards from the shore or seawall and from all piers around facilities. The security zone is bounded by the following points: 27°47.85' N, 082°25.02' W then east and south along the shore and pile to 27°47.63' N, 082°24.70' W then north along the shore to 27°48.17' N, 082°24.70' W then north and west along a straight line to 27°48.12' N, 082°24.88' W, then south along the shore and pile to 27°47.85' N, 082°25.02' W closing off the entrance to the Big Bend Power Facility.

A new security zone has been created restricting access to the Power Facility at Weedon Island. The security zone extends 50 yards from the shore or seawall and from all piers around facilities. The security zone is bounded by the following points: 27°51.52' N, 082°35.82' W then north and east along the shore to 27°51.54' N, 082°35.78' W then north to 27°51.68' N, 082°35.78' W then north to 27°51.75' N, 082°35.78' W closing off entrance to the canal then north to 27°51.89' N, 082°35.82' W then east along the shore to 27°51.89' N,