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For Immediate Release

April 8, 2013

**Senior U.S. Department of Energy official visits  
the Republic of the Marshall Islands April 9-10, 2013**

Mr. Glenn Podonsky, Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will visit Majuro, the capitol of the Marshall Islands on April 9-10 as part his regular responsibilities. Mr. Podonsky's office has responsibility for the DOE Marshall Islands Program that is part of the Compact of Free Association.

Mr. Podonsky will meet with His Excellency Christopher Loeak, Minister of Foreign Affairs Philip Muller, Minister of Health David Kabua, Secretary of Health Justina Langidrik as well as local atoll leadership for the four atolls in the DOE program - Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap and Utrik. He will be seeking their thoughts on the environmental monitoring program for all four atolls and the special medical care program for people living on Rongelap and Utrik atolls in 1954 who were exposed to high levels of local nuclear fallout from the nuclear test codenamed Castle Bravo. He will also meet with U.S. Ambassador Thomas Armbruster at the U.S. Embassy in Majuro, and with Mrs. Mary Silk of the College of the Marshall Islands Nuclear Institute. Mr. Podonsky will tour the Majuro Hospital, DOE medical clinic and the DOE whole-body counting facility.

Mr. Podonsky's comments will emphasize:

- Sequestration will have no impact on the DOE Marshall Islands program funding
- DOE technical support to Rongelap resettlement remains a top priority
- The Runit Dome ground water monitoring field mission will begin in May
- The RMI Government request for document declassification is nearing completion