

## Brief Review

U.S. Nuclear Tests in the Marshall Islands

- The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, TTPI Area captured from Japan in WW II. Under Navy control

TTPI formed in July 1947 under Department of

Interior. DOE High Commissioner reports to DOI and to U.N.

TTPI is under the administration, legislation, and jurisdiction of U.S.

TTPI contains:

700 square miles land

$3 \times 10^6$  square miles ocean

2000 Islands

6 separate Districts

30,000 people - Marshalls

- U.S. Nuclear Tests in Northern Marshalls Atomic Energy Act, 1946, gave AEC responsibility for atomic development. Most Manhattan Project Scientists went to AEC, Manhattan Project renamed:

Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, AFSWP

Defense Atomic Support Agency, DASA

Defense Nuclear Agency, DNA

Atomic Energy Commission renamed:

Energy Research and Development Administration, ERDA

Department of Energy, DOE

→ Pacific nuclear tests conducted jointly by AEC and DOE

→ First Joint Task Force, JTF-1, formed under AFSWP

→ Relocation of people:

→ Bikini Atoll - 1946

→ Enewetak Atoll - 1947

→ Conduct of nuclear tests:

→ Bikini Atoll - 23 tests, 1946-58

→ Enewetak Atoll - 43 tests, 1948-58

→ Castle BRAVO accident, 1954, ~~evacuations~~

→ Rongelap Atoll residents - radiation injuries  
*evacuated*

→ Utrik Atoll residents - no symptoms of injury  
*evacuated*

→ Bikini and Enewetak Atolls contaminated by test debris

→ DOD retained control of test atolls after tests

- AEC/ERDA/DOE Programs in Marshalls

→ Rongelap medical followup - BNL, REECO

→ Atoll cleanup/rehabilitation, joint AEC/DOD/DOI project

→ Bikini Atoll - 1967-78

→ Enewetak Atoll - 1972-80

→ Radiological monitoring support - BNL, LLNL, EG&G

→ Dose Assessment and Advice - BNL, LLNL, PNL, LANL

- Status of TTPI

→ About 10 years of negotiations toward ending TTPI

Republic of Marshall Islands, Rep Mar, formed

Many administrative and governmental functions given to Rep Mar.

→ U.S. and Marshallese negotiators agree on Compact of Free Association

→ Compact ~~until~~ <sup>will</sup> current and future injury and damages extinguish all

→ claims against U.S.

→ Compact provides:

→ Compensation to Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utirik people

→ Financial support to Rep Mar for 15 years

→ Compensation to Kwajalein land owners for DOE use of atoll.

→ Marshallese people voted September 7 (September 6 for us) on Compact

→ Results - unknown

→ If compact approved in Marshalls, Congress considers *next*

→ Estimate 2 years for Congressional approval, i.e., 1985

→ DOE continues medical and monitoring support until TTPI ends.