NYC Environmental Protection
Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Cas Holloway, Commissioner

WEEKLY PIPELINE

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Training to be the Best!

Every day, New York City treats more than a billion gallons of wastewater at our fourteen wastewater treatment plants. It's only through the dedication and knowledge of our employees that we're able to accomplish this task successfully. New York City's waterways are the cleanest they've been in over a hundred years, which is a direct result of the investments we've made throughout the wastewater system and our operators' skills.

When new Sewage Treatment Workers (STWs) are hired, they must complete a six-week-long training program before they are assigned to a plant or collection facilities crew. This orientation program, which is run by the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment's Training & Development Section, covers topics such as welding, rigging, pump maintenance, and confined space entry. BWT is currently holding an orientation session for 14 STWs who were recently hired from a civil service list.

On Wednesday, **Commissioner Holloway**, Chief of Staff **Lynn Cole**, and BWT Deputy Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza** visited the orientation class at the 26th Ward Wastewater Treatment Plant, which was guided by BWT Training Chief **Walter Dobkowski**. Skills Instructors **Jean Alty**, **Charles Waggelman** and **Anthony Farella** each held sessions with individual groups of new STWs. Jean Alty taught burning with an oxy-acetylene torch; Charles Waggelman instructed on pipe threading, sweating, and gluing; and Anthony Farella did centrifugal-pump packing training.

"I've been in training for eighteen

(Continued on reverse side)

Spotlight on Safety

Preventing Bloodborne Pathogen Exposures

The best way to prevent exposure to bloodborne pathogens is to practice "universal precautions," such as encouraging a safe working environment, wearing all required PPE, and receiving regular training.

Some of the activities you should do to minimize your chances of exposure are:

- Wash hands and any exposed skin thoroughly with soap and water immediately after contact with potentially infectious materials.
- Be careful when cleaning up accident sites.

And some of the things you shouldn't do are:

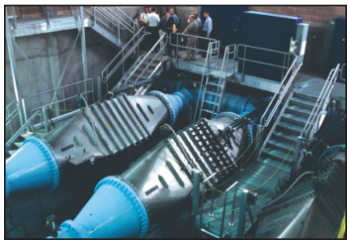
- Eat or drink in work areas that could be contaminated.
- Keep food or beverages in refrigerators or work areas where they could be exposed to potentially infectious materials.
- Touch objects with your bare hands that could be contaminated with bloodborne pathogens.

Click here for more information.

At DEP, everyone is responsible for safety. If you or anyone on your team is concerned about your working conditions, it's okay to ask your supervisor or your bureau's EHS liaison how they can help. If you've still got questions, you can call the EHS Employee Concerns Hotline. It's DEP's responsibility to acknowledge and fix unsafe situations, procedures, and practices. With your help, we'll not only get the job done, we'll make it safer for ourselves, our coworkers, our families, and our city.

CALL (800) 897-9677 OR SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH PIPELINE. HELP IS ON THE WAY.

Commissioner's Corner



Last week, the Water Board adopted the fiscal year 2011 water rate. Based on feedback from the public hearings and the Board's own review of DEP's proposal, the Board requested that we do everything possible to ease the burden on ratepayers next year. In response, we were able to double the one-time discount to customers who register for our direct debit payment program—from 1% to 2% of their total water bill for next year. You can sign-up for the program here. I want to thank the members of the Water Board—**Alan Moss,** Chair, **Don Capoccia, Marcia Bystryn, Bill Howell, Mehul Patel** and **Benjamin Tisdell**—for their service, and for ensuring that DEP has the resources it needs to provide 9 million New Yorkers with high-quality drinking water.

At the public hearings, I committed that we at DEP would work hard to continue to reduce costs, and to make smart capital investments at a pace that New Yorkers can afford. Meeting that commitment will take a sustained and dedicated effort, and I look forward to working with each of you to run DEP as efficiently as possible while meeting our core mission.

Last Tuesday, I visited the BWT training complex at 26th Ward, where our newest class of sewage treatment workers is learning the ropes. You can read more about it in this week's feature story.

On Wednesday, we activated a new throttling gate at Staten Island's Port Richmond Wastewater Treatment Plant—a cost-effective way to reduce Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs). The gate will reduce CSOs in Kill Van Kull by up to 5.6 million gallons during storms, or about 30 million gallons per year. Since 2002, the City has invested nearly $1 billion in overflow reduction programs, a major reason why our harbor water quality is the best it's been in a century.

On Friday, I went to the Kensico Laboratory, where DEP scientists and staff conduct the bulk of our compliance sampling for the Catskill, Delaware and Croton systems. Our water quality team is on the job seven days a week—in the lab and out on our reservoirs keeping vigilant watch over the quality of our water supply. Thanks to Deputy Commissioner **Paul Rush, Steve Schindler, Lori Emery, Charles Cutietta-Olson, Dale Borchert** and everyone at Kensico for the tour.

I also toured the Catskill/Delaware Ultra-Violet Disinfection Plant, which will be the largest UV plant on Earth, and is necessary to allow New York City to maintain an unfiltered water supply for these watersheds. Amazingly, some necessary components of the plant were built and buried in the 1930s, waiting to be unearthed if and when the City needed it. This is a true testament to the long-term vision that DEP brings to the work we do. Thanks to Design Chief **Paul Smith**, Design Project Manager **Jasmin Rivera**, Construction Project Manager **George Schmitt** and everyone else for keeping this project ahead of schedule—keep up the great work!

Did You Know?

Six saturation divers charged with repairing a valve at the bottom of a Delaware Aqueduct shaft lived for more than a month in a pressured tank, breathing air that was 97.5% helium and 2.5% oxygen. They worked 12 hours shifts, with each member of the three-person team working on the concrete covering the valve for four hours at a time.

Focus on the Field

The vertical shaft risers that bring water from the City's three water tunnels are the unsung heroes of our water infrastructure. New York City's three water tunnels receive a lot of press, and deservingly so: these engineering marvels convey more than a billion gallons of water every day. But if the vertical riser shafts aren't functioning properly, the water in these tunnels remains buried deep in the earth.

That's why **Daniel Craft**, the Engineer-In-Charge for Shaft Maintenance, oversees, directs, and coordinates the engineers in his section. Working for **Michael Sullivan**, Acting Chief of Shaft Maintenance, **Michael Farnan**, Director of Distribution Operations, **Ed Coleman**, Assistant Commissioner, and **Jim Roberts**, the Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations, Daniel helps maintain our riser shafts by utilizing various contracts and implementing special projects to keep all the equipment working properly. He's also responsible for new contract development and coordinating with other departments to ensure that their contracts interface correctly with Shaft Maintenance.

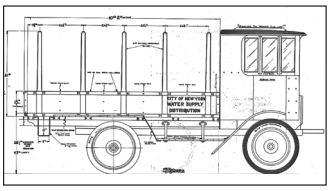
Daniel joined DEP in February 1989, and was here to witness DEP achieve a major milestone for City Water Tunnel No. 3: in 1997, DEP promised Mayor Giuliani that it would activate Stage 1 in a year, and DEP did just that. DEP recently marked another major milestone in May 2010 when we announced the completion of tunnel boring for City Water Tunnel No. 3, the installation of 8.5 miles of concrete liner, and the construction of ten shafts. Daniel is a licensed Professional Engineer, and has a Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Masters of Business Administration.

In his spare time, Daniel likes to travel around the United States to National Parks and other local places of interest. He also loves riding his bike and has an interest in history.

Arlene Siegel-Fishman, Director of Employee Benefits, HRA, attended the NYC Agencies Blood Coordinators Recognition Breakfast on May 4th. DEP was recognized with a plaque for placing in the overall top 10 blood drives for City agencies and the 5th highest blood donation total for NYC Agencies.

DEP: Then & Now

Then: This 1923 drawing is for a 1-1/2-ton truck used by the Manhattan distribution work force. The contract was awarded to Autocar and called for folding windows, oak flooring, hickory rungs and was painted "Ronan's Brewster Gray". It cost $2100.00 and transported Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity laborers and their tools to work sites.



Now: Today's vehicles come equipped with state-of-the-art systems that greatly enhance the productivity of our work force. The vehicle picture above was purchased in October 2007, at a cost of $94,986.00. This vehicle has a hydraulic system which powers various tools and an on-board valve operating device which is used to operate large diameter water main valves. The vehicle is also equipped with a two-way radio and something our pioneering predecessors would have appreciated back in 1923: air-conditioning!

Ask Cas

askcas@dep.nyc.gov

Q. I recently participated in the 5-Boro Bike Tour sponsored by TD Bank and various other organizations. The Bike Tour was not only a fun day, but showed us an environmentally friendly way to get around the city.

My question is, why doesn't the Department of Environmental Protection take part in the sponsoring of this event, or at least to provide the great product we all work hard to supply to New York City? - **Kevin P. McGarrigle**, Supervisor Electrician, BWSO

A. Kevin, that is a great question and I am happy to have the opportunity to speak about this. In fact, DEP does supply water to many special events held throughout NYC, including the recent 5-Boro Bike Tour. We do this in one of several ways: we can open a fire hydrant and event organizers are able to fill barrels or coolers with water to provide to event participants (as we did for the 5-Boro Bike Tour in Brooklyn and many of the NYC marathon qualifying events), or we can set up NYC Water-on-the-Go stations so that event participants can refill water bottles or just get a cool drink of water directly from the taps. Click here to see a photo of the NYC Water-on-the-Go station in action at a recent event.

(Training to be the Best!... - continued)

years now," said Walter Dobkowski. "I really feel we've developed a viable program that addresses the skills that STWs will need before they get out in the field." All of Walter's instructors have extensive field experience, and know how to adapt the program to address real world challenges that DEP's operators routinely face.

Much of the orientation program focuses on Environmental Health and Safety guidelines, because these new STWs will be dealing with chemicals, high voltage, and mechanical systems. They get extensive training on agency and bureau EHS policies and procedures. Keeping our treatment plants and collection facilities in working order is a big job, and keeping our operators safe and healthy is even more important. Our trainers play an essential role in making this happen.

Milestones

Congratulations to the following May graduates: **Benjulkys Martinez**, HRA/HRM, Long Island University, B.A. in Criminal Justice; **Monica Rama**, HRA/EEO, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, B.S. in Forensic Psychology; **Thurlough Smyth**, BEPA, Columbia University's School of International & Public Affairs, Master of Public Administration; **Cesar Yoc**, BEPA, Hunter College, Masters in Urban Planning.

Congratulations to **Albertha Torres**, BEDC, who gave birth to a baby girl, **Leilani** on May 10.

Best wishes to **Scott Foster**, BCIA, and **Joel Langsam**, BWSO, on their retirement in May.

Event Calendar:

May is **Asian/Pacific Heritage Month** at DEP; exhibits of Asian artifacts, biographies, puzzles and recipes are displayed in the 3rd Floor Corridor.

May 27 - "Say Yes to Tennis Day"; USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, Flushing Meadows Corona Park; 10am - 1pm; BCIA Staff

We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: newsletter@dep.nyc.gov.