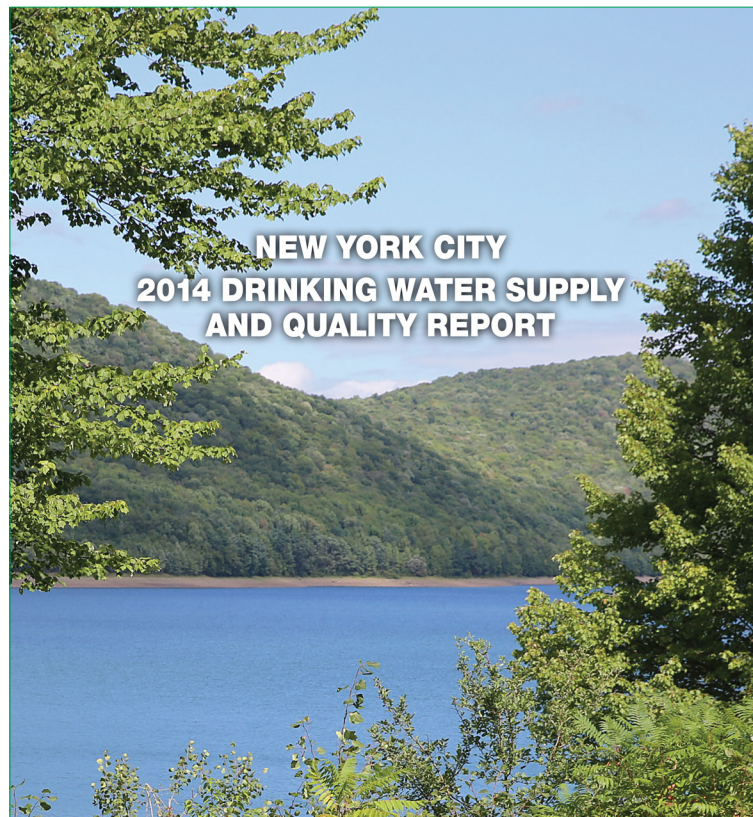


## Commissioner's Corner



### NEW YORK CITY 2014 DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND QUALITY REPORT

I am pleased to present DEP's 2014 Drinking Water Supply and Quality Report, which contains important information about the drinking water for nearly half the State's population. The report was prepared in accordance with the New York State Sanitary Code and the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which require all drinking water suppliers to provide the public with an annual statement describing the water supply and the quality of its water. DEP is pleased to report that in 2014, the quality of our drinking water remained high and met all health-related state and federal drinking water standards.

The New York City Water Supply System provides approximately one billion gallons of safe drinking water daily to more than eight million residents of New York City, and to the millions of tourists and commuters who visit the City throughout the year, as well as about 110 million gallons a day to one million people living in Westchester, Putnam, Ulster, and Orange Counties. New York City's surface water is supplied from a network of 19 reservoirs and three controlled lakes in a nearly 2,000-square-mile watershed, roughly the size of the State of Delaware, which extends 125 miles north and west of New York City. In 2014, 100 percent of New York City's drinking water came from the Catskill/Delaware supply. Water from the Croton and groundwater supply systems was not fed into distribution during 2014.

Due to the very high quality of our Catskill/Delaware supply,



New York City is one of only five large cities in the country with a surface drinking water supply that does not require filtration as a form of treatment, although the water is still disinfected to reduce microbial risk. DEP disinfects its water with chlorine and ultraviolet light (UV). Chlorine is a common disinfectant added to kill germs and stop bacteria from growing on pipes. UV treatment is a disinfection process that works by passing the water by special lamps that emit UV light, which can inactivate harmful microorganisms. UV treatment does not change the water chemically, as nothing is added except energy.

DEP also treats the water with food grade phosphoric acid, sodium hydroxide, and fluoride. Phosphoric acid is added to create a protective film on pipes that reduces the release of metals, such as lead, from household plumbing. Sodium hydroxide is added to raise the pH and reduce corrosivity, which also leads to a reduction in potential exposure to lead.

To learn more about your drinking water, read the complete report [here](#).

## Spotlight on Safety

### Charging Safely

Charging, or changing out, lead-acid forklift batteries can lead to potential hazards. Workers may be exposed to poisonous and corrosive sulfuric acid present in the battery fluid, shorted circuits causing burns or explosions, and electric shock. Only trained personnel should charge and change batteries in electric forklifts. The following steps can help to minimize the hazards associated with serving and changing forklift batteries:

- remove metallic items, including jewelry, before performing any work
- ensure there is adequate ventilation
- do not allow smoking in the charging area
- charge batteries with flame-arresting caps in place and do not pry caps off sealed batteries

For more information on forklift batteries charging and changing procedures, visit [OSHA's Powered Industrial Trucks e-Tool](#).

- wear appropriate personal protective equipment and use insulated tools

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.





## Press Box

### WET WIPES BOX SAYS FLUSH. NEW YORK'S SEWER SYSTEM SAYS DON'T.

"With its sewer system under siege, tallying millions of dollars in equipment damage across its underground maze, New York City is confronting a menace that has gummed the gears of plumbing networks around the world: the common wet wipe... The city has spent more than \$18 million in the past five years on wipe-related equipment problems, officials said. The volume of materials extracted from screening machines at the city's wastewater treatment plants has more than doubled since 2008, an increase attributed largely to the wipes."

Read the entire New York Times article [here](#).

## Clear and Cold



Testing water quality in Catskills streams often brings Bureau of Water Supply staff to remote—and cold—places. Water quality scientists **Paul Perri** and **Brittany Smith** on Monday waded into the frigid waters of the Bear Kill, just upstream of Schoharie Reservoir. Those samples, and thousands of others from the watershed, will be analyzed more than 250,000 times by year's end.

## Flagged



Watershed Maintainer **Fred Reinhart** inspects and marks the boundary of a City-owned parcel of land near Schoharie Reservoir. DEP inspects and marks the boundary lines of each parcel every few years. The boundaries are often painted on tree trunks, or marked by flags or signs to make it easier for recreational visitors and neighbors to know where the property lines exist. The markings also make it easier for future inspections.

## Sneak Peek



The initial excavation of a new, \$250 million water tunnel connecting Brooklyn to Staten Island is nearing completion. The new, deeper tunnel—called a siphon—will convey drinking water under New York Harbor from Brooklyn to Staten Island. Once the tunnel is completed, two existing, nearly century old water mains that are located at a much shallower depth will be removed and the work to dredge and deepen the Anchorage Channel can be completed. The harbor deepening initiative is critical to accommodating the new generation of larger, more environmentally friendly cargo vessels in New York Harbor.

## Kudos Corner



Earlier this month, three members of DEP's Bureau of Customer Services (BCS) were honored at the Citywide Customer Service Award Ceremony. Pictured here with First Deputy Mayor **Anthony Shorris** are BCS Ombudsmen **Kayetrina Murchison** and **Patrick Giagnacova**. Also recognized were **Evelyn Garcia** and **Jean Prince**. Kayetrina was recognized for Excellence in Customer Service and Evelyn and Jean, both of the BCS Bronx office, were recognized for assisting a customer with language access issues. As the public face of the department, they all set a terrific example for all DEP employees to emulate.

**We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: [newsletter@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:newsletter@dep.nyc.gov).**