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WEEKLY PIPELINE EXTRA

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DEP Employees of the Month for October 2010

The Employee of the Month program recognizes DEP staff members that have exhibited outstanding personal effort, and have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve the people of New York City.

DEP is a great agency that delivers services that millions of New Yorkers depend on daily. Making good on that daily promise requires dedication and hard work of the nearly 6,000 employees of DEP. To nominate someone who has demonstrated uncommon dedication and excellence, fill out the nomination form with some basic information, such as the nominee's responsibilities, examples of extraordinary performance, and ways that they have set an example for others. The form is available on Pipeline, and you'll need to submit it by the tenth day following the end of the month. For more information, email Herb Roth at hroth@dep.nyc.gov.

The Employees of the Month for October, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on November 22, with Commissioner Holloway, received a certificate, and had their names added to the Employee of the Month Board on the 3rd and 19th floors at Lefrak, and at the Kingston Office. These men and women set a standard for all of us to emulate and appreciate.



WSO - George Walfisch

George has been with DEP since January 2006 and is a Watershed Maintainer. In Groundwater Operations, his area is responsible for the operations of groundwater facilities, including starting and stopping equipment, taking readings, and inspecting unmanned stations.

While conducting a routine field visit at a groundwater well station, George was approached by two individuals who asked several suspicious questions about the facility and a water storage tank located on the property. The individuals proceeded to take pictures of the tank which prompted George to call the Supervisor on Duty, Brian Harvey, and provide him with a description of the individuals and their vehicle. Subsequently, the NYPD, DEP Police, and BWSO management were notified. Because of the importance of DEP facilities, NYPD encourages employees to apply their knowledge and be on the look out for anything unusual or suspicious. And if anyone witnesses anything—as George did—to report these occurrences to authorities.



EC - Dennis Antzoulatos

Dennis has been with DEP since September 1990 and currently serves as an Associate Project Manager in the Air Engineering Division. The Air Pollution Control Code requires combustion and industrial sources that emit pollutants into the air to obtain permits. Dennis is responsible for reviewing initial submissions of permit applications, determining if information is recorded accurately, and issuing additional paperwork if necessary. In addition, he performs field inspections of equipment after the submissions are deemed complete by engineering review.

Dennis has been instrumental in bringing DEP facilities into compliance with air permitting requirements and ensuring new facilities meet critical permit requirements that coincide with contract timelines. He worked on the permit for the Jerome Park Reservoir scrubber between March and June of 2010 as well as the permit submission for the Croton Water Filtration Plant this past summer.



WT - Zhi Wei "Wayne" Kuang

Wayne has been with DEP since September 1989. He serves as a City Research Scientist and handles air emissions compliance for the wastewater treatment plants and pumping stations. One of his main responsibilities is working with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Air Enforcement Unit, which is responsible for performing inspections of our odor control and monitoring systems and determines if DEP is in compliance with applicable standards.

In early October, a community organization in Upper Manhattan asked DEC's regional administrator to evaluate the operations at the North River treatment plant, and DEC subsequently ramped up inspections. North River is DEP's most odor-controlled facility and has an extremely complex system. As a result, Wayne spent many long hours with DEC's team explaining the intricacies of the system, pouring through data, and dispelling any inaccurate claims that may have been made.



Police & Security - Movses Guluzian

Movses has been with DEP since April 2009 and serves in the Division of Emergency Response and Technical Assessment (DERTA) as an Assistant Chemist. Most recently, Movses provided invaluable assistance in developing DEP's "Hazardous Materials Management in New York City 2010 Annual Report." This report is required by Local Laws 26 and 92 (Community Right-to-Know laws) and contains information about DEP's comprehensive "Right-to-Know Program", which is designed to protect the community, workers, emergency responders and the environment in the event of an accidental or premeditated hazardous substance release. In addition, he is also responsible for responding to emergency calls and preparing chemicals for the Haz-Cat kits. The Haz-Cat kits are important tools used by emergency responders to characterize unknown or mislabeled substances.



OIT - Colin Abrams

Colin began working with DEP as a Summer College Intern in 1998 and now serves as a Computer Aide in the Office of Information Technology. Colin is responsible for the installation, set up and configuration of computer workstations, servers, and routers. He also works very closely with the IT managers and remote site technicians in maintaining network closets' connectivity, and monitoring activities across the network to ensure stability. At customer service outreach events this year, he interacted with Community Boards and residents while providing excellent customer service. In addition, over the past several months, he has worked on several important projects including the implementation of AMR.

Commissioner's Award:



WT - Robert "Beau" Ranheim

Beau is a Research Scientist who heads BWT's Marine Sciences unit, which implements DEP's Harbor Survey program. Beau has been with the city since 1992, so he's been around for 18 of the 100 years that we've been doing this annual survey. DEP just released the Centennial Harbor Survey report, which chronicles the tremendous work done by Beau's team and their predecessors going back to 1909. Beau is hands on in all aspects of the program from taking sample from the boat to doing lab analyses and compiling data to actually writing the annual report each year. The billions of dollars in investments made by DEP in wastewater treatment and conveyance are paying off: the waterways surrounding New York City are healthier now than they've been in a century. But DEP is not letting Beau rest. The survey is being expanded yet again to assess our nitrogen upgrades in Jamaica Bay and to monitor improvements from CSO initiatives.