

Kudos Corner



Burjor J. Kharivala, P. E., of the Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction (BEDC), is retiring after dedicating nearly 50 years of his life to the design of City Water Tunnel No. 3, its deep rock control chambers, and distribution shafts. In his honor, the gateway between Hillview Reservoir and City Water Tunnel No. 3 will hereinafter be named The Burjor J. Kharivala Control Chamber. A plaque will be placed at the gateway,

dedicated on the date of Burjor's retirement, April 28, 2017.

Burjor began his career with the City of New York Department of Public Works designing wastewater treatment tanks for the original Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in 1963. After a short period as an engineering consultant, Burjor rejoined the Board of Water Supply in 1968 when work was beginning on City Water

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Spotlight on Safety

Worker's Memorial Day

Each year, April 28th is observed as Workers' Memorial Day to honor those who have lost their lives or have been injured on the job and to renew the commitment to protect the safety and health of all workers. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), every year more than 4,000 workers die on the job and nearly four million workers are injured or made sick at work.

DEP is committed to ensuring all employees remain safe on the job by implementing applicable safety regulations and policies and providing resources for employees to report unsafe conditions. This

includes workplace violence. DEP employees have the right and are encouraged to report workplace violence incidents without fear of retaliation.

DEP ensures that concerns that are made by employees or contractors are promptly reviewed and resolved. Directly report a concern or an EHS violation to your supervisor, Bureau EHS Safety Officer, or the Employee Concerns Hotline at 800-897-9677 anytime. If you are a DEP contract employee, please call 718-595-4700.

To learn more, visit OSHA's [Workers' Memorial Day page](#).

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.

Special Guest Commissioner's Corner



Pamela Elardo, DEP's Deputy Commissioner for Wastewater Treatment, is a guest commentator this week.

Last Wednesday, I had the pleasure of joining with Acting Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza** as we kicked off the [30th annual Operations Challenge](#) at the Jamaica Wastewater Treatment Plant. This competition is the Olympics of our industry and is approached with high levels of pride and team spirit. The event, co-sponsored by DEP and New York Water Environment Association Metro, featured four teams of Bureau of Wastewater Treatment (BWT) plant operators showcasing the expertise and skills required to operate and maintain New York City's 14 wastewater treatment plants and 96 pump stations. This included teams from the Bowery Bay, Jamaica, Hunts Point and North River plants. Moreover, we are very pleased that, in a competition first, a team representing the Bureau of Water Supply (BWS) upstate watershed treatment plants participated to test their mettle against their downstate colleagues.

All teams competed in three timed and judged events, including:

- **Collections:** Teams respond to a leaking pipe and repair it while it remains in service.
- **Worker Safety:** Teams compete in a timed, confined space rescue of a fellow employee and perform CPR while checking air quality. They must also change a defective check valve.
- **Maintenance:** Teams compete to respond to a severe weather condition that results in a pumping outage. They must restore the

main pumps to service, and program them for emergency use.

In addition, this year's competition included two events which the teams completed earlier in the week:

- **Laboratory:** Teams perform tests on water samples to determine if it meets discharge standards.
- **Wastewater Treatment Process:** Teams are tested on their knowledge of the wastewater treatment process.

After intense, and sometimes furious, moments in the competition, the two teams coming out on top represented the Jamaica and Bowery Bay plants. They will move on to compete in the regional competition in New Jersey next month and then the state competition in June in Rochester, NY. In addition, our upstate team will also be advancing to the next level. The winners of the statewide contest will participate in the national competition to be held in Chicago in September. A team from DEP has advanced to the national competition in 29 out of the last 30 years, and we are hoping for another great showing this year.

This competition reflects the high level of expertise, skill and knowledge of our crews. In addition, it demonstrates the high level of pride the men and women in BWT and BWS take in protecting public health and the environment. I'd like to thank everyone involved with the Operations Challenge for all of their work, especially like to thank **Howard Robinson** and **William Grandner**. And, best of luck to the advancing teams at the regional competition! [Click here](#) to view photos from the competition.

(Kudos Corner... continued)

Tunnel No. 3. Burjor began designing components that would support this massive project and, from that point forward, spent the majority of his career designing the systems that comprise City Water Tunnel No. 3, with its 34 mile-long deep-rock tunnel and its 31 shafts. He also worked on projects at Hillview and Kensico Reservoirs, and the Delaware and Catskill Aqueducts.

Burjor rose through the ranks to become Chief Tunnel Engineer for BEDC. Under his direction, the Van Cortlandt Valve Chamber—a

680 foot long, 50 foot wide, and 60 foot high structure—was blasted out of solid bedrock 280 feet below the ground. Burjor has enthusiastically shared his 50-plus years of engineering and geotechnical expertise with BEDC's In-House Design staff in developing the next generation of in-house tunnel design engineers who, in turn, continue to deliver critical infrastructure projects for the city and who proudly carry forward his legacy. Congratulations Burjor and thanks for your service!

Air Quality in NYC

The City's Health Department last week released the latest [New York City Community Air Survey \(NYCCAS\)](#) results, which found improvements in air quality between 2008 and 2015 and highlighted continued progress toward Mayor de Blasio's OneNYC goal of achieving the cleanest air of any large U.S. city by 2030. Between 2008 and 2015, levels of fine particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, nitric oxide and black carbon have declined by 18 percent, 23 percent, 28 percent and 18 percent, respectively. The reduction in air pollution is most directly related to the phase out of No. 6 heating oil, an effort that was spearheaded by the DEP. Last February, DEP and Mayor de Blasio announced that all 5,300 buildings that were registered as burning Number 6 heating oil in 2011 had [converted to a cleaner fuel](#). Working closely with environmental groups and the real estate industry, in 2011 DEP promulgated new rules which phased out the use of No. 6 heating oil by 2015. Since then, DEP enforcement staff have conducted nearly 4,000 inspections, issued more than 2,000 Notices of Violation and 162 Cease and Desist Orders to ensure buildings were making the required conversion.

Welcome Aboard



Yesterday, 33 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Acting Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza**, Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development and Human Resources **Diana Jones Ritter** and Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Iris Camacho with BCS; **Sean Donovan**, **Rebecca Freed**, **Paul Grech** and **Subraham Singh** with BEDC; **Miriam Basora Reynoso**, **Anthony Scapperotti** and **Josh Shirian** with BWS; **John Bencivengo**, **Johnathan Botelho**, **Timothy Bullock**, **Phillip Carrero**, **Keithanel Dechalus**, **Jenna Defalco**, **Vincent D'Erasmus**, **Wayne Dixon**, **Jerry Dombrowski**, **Yuksel Erdagi**, **Francis Escobedo**, **Anthony Lerman**, **Dexter Powell**, **Chrystal Pringle**, **Jose Rivera**, **Barrington Woolley Jr.** and **Nicholas Zarcone** with BWSO; **Patrick K. Ajayi**, **Liv Adrian Besa** and **Sharmir Findley** with BWT; **Manuel Martinez** (not pictured) and **Luis Pichardo** with CDBG; **Cristina Garcia** with Commissioner's Office; **Nakkia F. Reid** with FDC; and **Colin Murphy** with Public Affairs.

Earth Day 2017



DEP celebrated [Earth Week](#) last week with a full slate of exciting and engaging events throughout the city. On Thursday, DEP and the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) [taught students about green infrastructure](#) currently being installed at the Edenwald Houses in the Bronx. Fourth-graders from P.S. 112 Bronxwood learned how green infrastructure works and why it's important for the environment and the community. On Friday, staffers took a Composting Ride to Queens Botanical Gardens, and, on Saturday, volunteers chipped in at a Rockaway Beach Clean-up. Additionally, on Saturday, a Water-On-the-Go station was placed at Broadway and 26th Street in Manhattan to celebrate Car Free Day NYC and DEP hosted a tour of the Digester Eggs at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Also, over the weekend, DEP partnered with New York State Senator **Leroy Comrie**, Assembly Member **Alicia Hyndman**, Council Member **I. Daneek Miller**, New York State Senator **Martin Golden** and Bronx-based community organization The Point to distribute rain barrels to nearly 400 homeowners in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens.

Employee Assistance Program

A note from **Kaitlyn Maceira**, LMHC, CASAC, with the NYC Employee Assistance Program (NYC EAP).

As we all know from the email sent out by WorkWell NYC, April is Alcohol Awareness Month. The detailed email not only explains signs and symptoms of problematic drinking, how risky drinking behaviors can be avoided and where to gain more information on alcohol and its negative health effects, but it also offers help through the NYC EAP. NYC EAP offers the same non-discriminatory counseling and referral services to family members as we do to employees. If you or a loved one is engaging in problematic alcohol and/or drug use, free and confidential help is available, in many different forms, from the NYC EAP. NYC EAP can help an employee or his/her family member find the appropriate level

of treatment whether it is inpatient, outpatient, community supports or extended care services. For NYC employees, if one requires inpatient services, they will be placed on an EAP leave of absence keeping their treatment plan and services confidential. NYC EAP will refer employees and their family members only to facilities within their insurance network and NYC EAP will handle all insurance authorizations so that you and your loved ones can focus solely on getting the help you need. Please contact the NYC EAP by phone at 212-306-7660 or email at eap@olr.nyc.gov for additional information. Beginning tomorrow, Kaitlyn will be at Le-frak the last Wednesday of every month from 9am–3pm. She will be taking scheduled appointments as well as walk-ins, so please stop by and say hello.

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