

## BEDC's Newest Change Order

It's no secret that our goal at DEP is to become the best capital program in the country to support delivery of our award-winning drinking water, treatment of 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater a day, and maintenance of healthy, beautiful surrounding waters and ecosystems. That's why the Bureau of Engineering, Design, and Construction recently underwent a reorganization to make it easier to complete capital projects on time and on budget. This reorganization follows significant progress to standardize processes, including cost estimating and EHS audits, tracking permits in an online database, and increasing project transparency with the Project Management Information System (PMIS).

BEDC's organizational structure is intended to better align its people with its core mission: delivering



high quality projects on behalf of our operating bureaus. The new structure bucks the traditional public sector models, which are typically very vertical and hierarchical in nature. The new model is very flat, eliminating layers of management, and creating clear lines of responsibility and accountability in project delivery. In essence, each project

(Continued on reverse side)

## Spotlight on Safety

### What's So Important About Occupational Injury and Illness Recordkeeping?

Occupational injuries and illnesses recordkeeping is an important health and safety tool for identifying hazards and determining the necessary improvements for reducing the overall injury and illness rate.

DEP is required to record and report occupational illnesses and injuries in accordance with NYS Department of Labor Public Employee Safety and Health (PESH) requirements. However, for an injury or illness to be considered occupational, it must be the result of an event or exposure in the work environment that either caused or contributed to the resulting condition or significantly aggravated a pre-existing injury or illness. The injury or illness is then recordable, if it results in either death, days away from work, restricted work or transfer to another job, medical treatment beyond first aid, loss of consciousness, or meets other criteria as defined in Labor Law Part 801.

The record is made using three separate, but related forms titled, the PESH Injury and Illness Incident Report (SH900.2); the Log of Work Related Injuries and Illnesses (SH900); and the Summary of Work Related Injuries and Illnesses (SH900.1).

Importantly, DEP facilities are required to conspicuously post the completed SH 900.1 record for the previous calendar year between February 1 and April 30 of the following year.

If an employee believes that there is a risk of injury or illness from an existing hazard for which safety measures are not in place, then immediately notify your supervisor or EHS liaison for this to be addressed. To learn more about the agency's Injury and Illness policy, please click here: [Injury & Illness Investigation and Recordkeeping](#).

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

What a difference a year makes! Yesterday, I toured the Croton Water Filtration Plant that is under construction beneath Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx for the first time since my last visit on January 8 with Health Commissioner **Dr. Tom Farley**. The progress is incredible. Since my last visit, the 9-acre roof is in place, and 20 cranes have been reduced to 5. Much work remains to be done, but Project Manager **Bernard Daly** and the entire Croton team, including **Vincent Moorehead**, **Gerard Cox**, **Paul Smith**, **Arne Fareth** and **Lauren Competello**, have done a tremendous job managing one of the most complex capital projects DEP has ever undertaken. I was joined by Empire State Development Corporation Executive Director **Peter Davidson** and his colleague **Arana Hankin** on a tour that included a stop at the junction of the New Croton Aqueduct (completed in 1895) and the newer Raw Water Tunnel that will feed up to 290 million gallons of water per day to the plant once it is operational.



high that it will continue to serve New Yorkers for generations to come—feeding the 21st century filtration plant that will soon treat 100% of the water supplied from the Croton watershed.

Earlier today, I travelled to Washington D.C. with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Executive Deputy Commissioner **Stu Gruskin** to meet with Regional Administrator **Judith Enck** and EPA headquarters staff to discuss DEP's strategic plan to improve water quality in New York Harbor—and every aspect of DEP's operations. I explained the unprecedented commitments that **Mayor Bloomberg** has made to the water system since 2002—and new initiatives like the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan that will continue to reduce combined sewer overflows and has the potential to beautify the entire city. You can learn more about the Harbor here, and explore the Green Infrastructure Plan here. The success of these and other initiatives will depend on the willingness of our state and federal regulators to work with us as partners, and to provide the operational flexibility necessary to address the common challenges we face in the most cost-effective way, and on a timeline that New Yorkers can afford.



I snapped the photo above at one of the two points where the brick-lined New Croton Aqueduct meets the cast-in-place concrete of the Raw Water Tunnel. Brick is no longer used to build water and sewer mains, but the construction quality of the 19th-century New Croton Aqueduct is so

As the year draws to a close, I'd like to thank everyone at DEP for your tremendous efforts day after day. Many DEP employees will be at work on Friday providing the water and sewer services that New Yorkers need. I'd like to extend a special thanks to you, and to everyone else: Happy Holidays!

## Focus on the Field



Whether providing disaster assistance in the aftermath of four Florida hurricanes, building temporary housing in post-Katrina New Orleans, or constructing a water distribution system for the Hopi Nation in Arizona—**Kevin Donnelly** is a man for all seasons. Raised a Navy brat, Donnelly frequently relocated during his formative years, which continued during his service as a Civil Engineering Officer in the U.S. Air Force. Perhaps that may best explain the subsequent extensive travel and variety of work assignments throughout his civil engineering career, including underground tunnel work in Nevada and commercial satellite launch site development projects on Kodiak Island, Alaska.

Although he joined DEP two months ago as Assistant Com-

missioner of the Wastewater Capital Program at the Bureau of Engineering Design and Construction, Donnelly is no stranger to the agency and its work. As a consultant with Shaw Environmental, he served as the resident engineer for the reconstruction of the Residuals Handling Building at the Owls Head Wastewater Treatment Plant in Brooklyn. Then, he worked with URS at the Hunts Point Wastewater Treatment Plant in the Bronx as resident engineer for nitrogen reduction and other plant upgrades.

Kevin is “excited about the opportunities for his staff from the reorganization.” He expects that by “adding a dimension of diverse assignments, staff will have an increased depth and breadth of experience and avoid getting pigeon-holed in a narrow project area for extended periods.” Kevin counts on his team of portfolio managers **Ken Moriarty**, **Roy Tysvaer**, **Mathew Osit**, **Kevin Clarke** and **Dan Solimando**.

Kevin is looking forward to relocating from Northern New Jersey to New York with his wife **Leslie**, who was originally from Elmira, and their three children **Meghan**, **Rachael**, and **Kyle**.

## Milestones

Best wishes to **Edie Kantrowitz**, EEO, who will be retiring on December 23, after 25 years of service.

Congratulations to **Luis Mendez**, BPS, and his wife **Julaluck** on the birth of their daughter **Ariya “Lola” Mendez** on December 14. All are doing well.

## Did You Know



...that this eastern screech owl recently moved into the Staten Island Bluebelt? An important part of the long term success of the Staten Island Bluebelt is the Adopt-a-Bluebelt program whereby residents and local community groups participate through “adopting” areas. The adopters beautify their sites by removing refuse and weeds, and they sometimes plant native wildflowers. In return, a sign is posted at the site publicly acknowledging the contributions of the adopter. A Girl Scout Troop from St. Rita’s School adopted a wetland site in the Richmond Creek Bluebelt and installed bird nesting boxes there. Bluebelt Construction Project Manager **Rob Brauman** snapped this photo of our winged friend, setting up residence in one of those boxes.

## Ask Cas

[askcas@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:askcas@dep.nyc.gov)

- Q. I read that in Portland, Oregon (which has an unfiltered system) that in the fall there is a slight change in the color of their drinking water. This unusual tint in the water results from the first flush of organic material from vegetation that has been washed from the forest floor and stream channels. Does the same happen here?
- A. There are differences in color levels among NYC’s three systems, with the Croton system reservoirs having higher color than the Catskill and Delaware systems’ reservoirs. This is due to the greater percentage of wetland area in the Croton watershed than in the other watersheds. Seasonal changes are also seen in NYC’s water color. In early summer there is an increase in color in reservoir surface samples related to algae growth. In late summer and early fall, reservoir bottom water can have low oxygen levels, which leads to the release of chemical compounds from the reservoir sediments that can increase color. There is also an increase in color in the Croton System water in the autumn after the leaves fall from the trees. However, due to differences between New York and Portland in the amount of rainfall, the forest types, wetland areas, and organic carbon content, the change in NYC’s water is not as obvious. The color in water is further diminished by the bleaching effects of the chlorine that is used for disinfection purposes. Even slight variations in natural color do not pose a threat to consumers, or affect the high quality of New York’s water supply.

### (BEDC’s Newest Change Order... continued)

will be assigned an Accountable Manager that is responsible for on-time and on-budget project delivery. The Accountable Managers will report up to a Portfolio Manager that manages a small subset of capital projects; and the Portfolio Manager reports up to an Assistant Commissioner—the entire chain of command from the Deputy Commissioner is only three steps deep. The flatter structure also redistributes projects over a greater number of senior managers creating more manageable portfolio sizes. This will allow our most experienced managers to spend more time on project delivery and staff mentoring. BEDC Deputy Commissioner **Kathryn Mallon** says, “Our Achilles heel has been our slow decision making. This structure borrows from the private sector models and

will help bring efficiency and clear lines of accountability to BEDC project delivery.”

More manageable portfolio sizes and project-based organization not only encourages individual accountability, it also helps DEP employees grow as professionals by introducing a greater range of project roles to fill. Individuals can transition from design to construction to broaden their own knowledge and experience and become even more valuable members of the DEP team. Ultimately, this reorganization is a recognition of the talent of BEDC staff. Mallon says, “Flattening an organization means distributing responsibilities to a broader group of staff—I’m confident this new structure will better allow our staff to meet our project delivery goals and enhance staff’s career development.”

## Kudos Corner

DEP is garnering a lot of positive recognition for our work improving the Gowanus Canal because of the hard work of Portfolio Manager **Kevin Clarke**, former Construction Chief **Reza Marandi**, Design Project Manager **Dennis Stanford** and Construction Project Manager **Warren Gordon**. Recently, the Metropolitan Chapter of the New York Water Environment Association issued its “Award of Merit” to the Gowanus Facilities Upgrade Project that includes the reconstruction and upgrading of the Wastewater Pumping Station and the Flushing Tunnel, which is expected to achieve a 34% reduction in CSOs and support an upgrade in the water quality classification from SD to Class I standards. This project was also recognized by the Metropolitan Chapter of the American Public Works Association who issued their “Public Works Project of the Year” award for the Oxygenation System component of the Gowanus Facilities Upgrade project. Read more about the project here

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