

BWSO Reloaded

Look out, because big things are happening in the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations (BWSO). On March 12th, Deputy Commissioner **James Roberts** announced changes as part of the first phase of BWSO's transition to a more streamlined operation in the Field Operations Division.

Ed Coleman will serve as the new Assistant Commissioner for Operations. As Assistant Commissioner, Ed will coordinate all of BWSO's operations City-wide. He'll make sure that we use our engineering and labor resources to effectively maintain our vast water and sewer infrastructure.

Another new position—one that will be central to the new organization—is the Borough Manager. Working in the Maintenance and Repairs Sections, the Borough Manager will be responsible for all Water and Sewer Main repairs within their assigned borough. From initial identification to repair, the Borough manager will be in charge of the lifecycle of an entire project. Borough Managers will be free to utilize all available borough resources, which means they'll have the flexibility to meet



their clearly defined responsibilities. Having these services organized at the Borough level will also bring this important function in line with the geographic organization of other City agencies.

The new Emergency Operations Unit, another key feature of the new organization, will directly manage or support all emergency operations. Having this dedicated first-response unit is extremely important: in 2008, DEP received more than 71,000 complaints that could have required immediate response from the Agency, depending upon their severity. The new team will allow DEP to better implement emergency management plans, such as **Mayor Bloomberg's** Flash Flood Plan, fire hydrant emergencies, and to better coordinate with the Office


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Spotlight on Safety

Confined Space Entry


OSHA's (Occupational Safety & Health Administration) confined space policy 1910.146 has a separate Appendix (1910.146 Appendix E) for sewer system entry. Sewers differ from most confined spaces in the sense that sections cannot be isolated from potentially hazardous conditions elsewhere in the system. This means the atmosphere could suddenly change and become hazardous. Entry teams need to be very familiar with use of confined space equipment, air monitoring

and ventilation protocols. Experienced sewer workers are aware of these hazards and take necessary precautions. As is always the case with ensuring safe work, employees must be educated about potential hazards.

DEP's confined space policy is not only the "law" but it provides a sound and practical framework to enable DEP employees to work safely in sewers and other confined spaces. 

Commissioner's Corner



This past Wednesday, **Mayor Bloomberg** announced the tentative settlement of two long-outstanding contracts with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and DC 37's Local 1320. Reaching a fair agreement on these contracts has been a top priority since I arrived at DEP and, once ratified, will resolve two labor disputes affecting more than 1,000 DEP employees in the City's wastewater treatment plants and pumping stations located throughout the five boroughs and in the upstate watershed. You can read more about the details of the Mayor's announcement here. 

I'd like to thank District Council 37's Director of Research and Negotiations **Dennis Sullivan**, Local 3 Business Representative **Sean Fitzpatrick**, and Local 1320 President **James Tucciarelli** for working hard with DEP and the Office of Labor Relations to get this done. I would also like to thank all of the men and women of DEP

affected by these agreements for continuing to work hard over the years of this dispute to ensure that DEP continued to achieve its core mission to supply, distribute, and treat more than one billion gallons of water every day. I look forward to working with all of the STWs, SSTWS, SEEs and SSEEs, along with everyone else at DEP, to find new ways to improve the services we provide, and to improve water quality for all New Yorkers.

Last Tuesday I spoke in Staten Island at a community meeting hosted by Borough President **James Molinaro**, to discuss the capital work that DEP is doing on the island, and the water rate study that DEP recently completed. Approximately 25 people attended and we had a lively discussion about issues ranging from the cost of water quality improvements to new proposals for stormwater management. On Thursday, Deputy Commissioner for Water Supply **Paul Rush** and I met with Ulster County Executive **Michael Hein** and members of his team to discuss New York City's partnerships in the watershed, and ways that we can continue to work together to ensure the safety of the City's water supply, which is relied upon by 9 million New Yorkers every day.

Did You Know?

... that the DEP Police Eastview Precinct at Valhalla is the First Green Building built by DEP. It received Green Building Rating USGBC LEED – Certified in October 2008.

Event Calendar:

Going Green in Queens 2010 – 3/27 9:30am - 3:30pm
Al Oerter Recreational Center; 131-40 Fowler Avenue; Flushing
Free workshops, giveaways, exhibits, food, fun! Pre-register:
goinggreeninqueens2010.eventbrite.com or GGIQ2010@yahoo.com

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. 

Focus on the Field



Malarie Gilmore is on the front lines of DEP's emergency response. Working in the Emergency Communications Center, her phone can ring anywhere from 50 to 75 times a day with elevated 311 complaints. It's Malarie's job to work with the callers to figure out the nature of the issue, to notify the appropriate response units, and to inform management about how DEP is reacting to the call. Malarie reports to her immediate Supervisor **Robert Giddens**, and a management team that consists of Manager of Emergency Operations Unit **Paul Vilella**, Chief **Dennis Delaney**, Director of Field Operations **Anastasios Georgelis** and is led by Deputy Commissioner **James Roberts**.

Malarie works closely with utility companies as well as other City agencies, especially, NYPD, FDNY, and the Office of Emergency Management to coordinate how DEP will provide service for any given event. Most of Malarie's calls are very serious, and are typically in regard to water and sewer issues, Haz-Mat issues, Industrial Waste concerns, or asbestos. But because this is New York City, sometimes strange things can happen: once Malarie received a call about some ducks trapped in a catch basin. We at Weekly Pipeline are happy to report that a Sewer Maintenance Crew removed the grating and rescued the imprisoned waterfowl.

Malarie started working at DEP in June 2001 at the Bronx Maintenance Yard. She started working at the Emergency Communications Center in December 2003, and enjoys the work because "no two calls are the same." In her spare time, Malarie likes to spend time with her family, work out, and go rollerblading. Just wear a helmet, and watch out for ducks, Malarie.

DEP: Then & Now



The data was recorded in field books and plotted by hand to create maps. (DEP archive, hdq.n.252)



While still employing a tripod to mount the surveying instrument, modern equipment is electronic and measures distances with lasers. The collected data is stored electronically and can be imported into Computer Aided Design (CAD) software to create maps. **Tom Cerchiara** works for DEP as a licensed surveyor and is mapping the Croton Falls Reservoir (which was completed 1911), located in Putnam County. (Photo contributed by Tom Cerchiara - 11/2009)

Then: A Board of Water Supply survey team on Storm King Mountain located on the west side of the Hudson River and from where the Catskill Aqueduct would cross the Hudson River on its route to New York City, May 10, 1907. The surveying instruments measured angles and a steel tape was used to calculate distances.

Now: DEP continues to conduct land surveys today to locate and maintain boundaries and property lines in order to prevent encroachment, water quality degradation, recreation overuse, and trespass. While still employing a tripod to mount the surveying instrument, modern equipment is elec-

Ask Cas

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Q. "DEP plays a critical role in monitoring the water quality of our water bodies in and around New York City and our reservoirs. We have made rather impressive strides over the past two decades in improving water quality. (Just ask the marine borers!) But how does DEP monitor the quality of ground water in New York City?" **Craig R. Hammerman**, District Manager, Brooklyn Community Board 6

A. Thanks for your question. Right now, DEP doesn't distribute any water from the groundwater wells. Instead, all of the City's water supply comes from our three upstate reservoir systems, the Croton, Catskill, and Delaware. The water from upstate tends to be of a higher quality, and DEP has invested a lot of time and resources making certain that our distribution system works throughout the City. But the groundwater wells are an important back-up system for the City's water supply. We have groundwater wells in Southeast Queens, built above the Upper Glacial, Magothy, and Lloyd Aquifers. Although none of the wells are in active service, we still check the water quality of the operational wells to make sure that they can continue to provide a viable redundancy for the City's water supply.

DEP Blood Drive - Thank You!

DEP employees donated 354 pints of blood for the Blood Drive at Lefrak. Upstate numbers will be provided in the next issue of Weekly Pipeline. We would like to thank everyone for their donations. The next blood drive will be June 15, 16, 17. We'd like to thank **Izzy Diunte** for providing special assistance during the Blood Drive, and the FMC staff for setting everything up.

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of Emergency Management (OEM) and other City agencies.

There's a lot to keep in mind, but in the end what all this means is that BWSO and DEP will be able to better serve the people of New York City.

Congratulations to all the new appointees. BWSO will publish

additional job notices for positions in the new management structure soon, so keep an eye out. If you think you're qualified, please apply! We're all a part of this change, and we all need to work together to make the new BWSO Field Operations be the best that it can be.

Fill Out Your Census Forms

As 120 million households receive their 2010 Census forms in the mail this week, U.S. residents are encouraged to participate in a process that is as old as the nation itself. Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution requires a census of the population every 10 years to ensure the fair allocation of representatives in Congress. For more information, go to <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/index.php>

Relief Efforts for Earthquake Victims

Donations may be made through the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, which will direct 100% of your donations to emergency relief organizations directly serving victims of the Haitian and Chilean earthquakes.

You can send a check or donate directly on line by visiting their website at www.nyc.gov/fund.

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