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2011: Milestone Year for the WWTP Upgrade Program

2011 represents a major milestone year for the WWTP Upgrade Program. Fourteen years after the program was initiated, the last west of Hudson WWTP, Camp Oh-Neh-Tah, completed its upgrade on January 20, 2011; and the last WWTP located in a Catskill/Delaware basins east of Hudson, Waccabuc Country Club, was declared functionally complete in June, 2011.

Reaching this point required overcoming many challenges beginning with the magnitude of the task: 106 WWTPs spread out over 1,969 square miles. Under the FAD, EPA established early milestones that required that plants accounting for more than 80% of

west of Hudson flow be upgraded by the end of the 2nd quarter 2002, which was achieved as of May 1, 2002.

Perhaps the greatest challenge was the Program's technical complexity. New state-of-the-art technologies such as membrane microfiltration, MBRs and Dual Upflow Sand filtration (CBUDS) were used for the first time to treat sanitary waste. The complexities of adding tertiary



L to R : Rocco Mastronardi, Bob Ravallo, Andy Stor, Brad Simmons

(Continued on page 2)



Above L to R: Harry Nelson of EFC, Bob Ravallo, Carla Paltridge

Below: Construction of the Walton WWTP

(Continued from page 1)

treatment was much greater than the MOA envisioned. It was no easy task. Many consulting engineers possessed limited experience designing modern tertiary equipment and early design submittals were inadequate, but DEP staff persisted until the engineers got it right.

Equal in nature to the technical challenge was the "people" challenge. The Program had to deal with a myriad of regulatory agencies local planning boards, attor-

neys and facility owners, many of whom had no history of working with DEP. All of this had to be overcome while DEP staff and our partners at EFC managed many tasks simultaneously, including design review, fiscal oversight, construction management, etc.

That these upgraded facilities were completed and operate successfully is testimony to the skill, dedication and professionalism of DEP's Upgrade Program Staff in partnership with their EFC colleagues. Congratulations on a job well done!





Prep for 2012 FAD is under way!

In July 2007, USEPA granted DEP a historic 10-year Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD). The FAD requires a five year assessment of the Watershed Protection Programs that contribute to the effectiveness of the FAD.

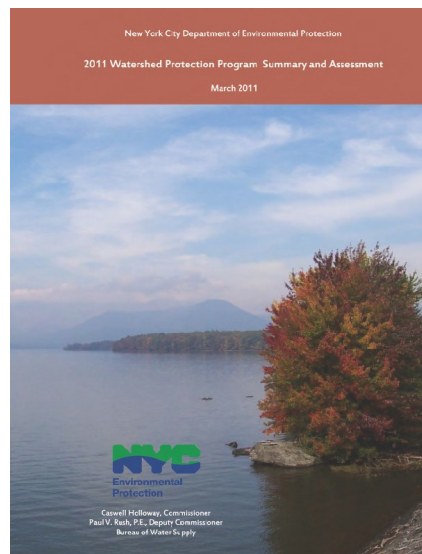
Preliminary planning started more than a year ago as program managers began to reevaluate their watershed protection programs and prepared to report on their progress in the FAD Assessment Report. This document includes an

analysis of each component of the watershed protection program and its effect on watershed water quality. The FAD Assessment Report was submitted to the regulators, NYSDOH and USEPA, on March 31, 2011. The report is posted on the DEP web site under Watershed Protection and listed with other recent FAD documents at http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/watershed_protection/fad.shtml. Overall, the report documents

the successes of the source water protection programs and confirms that water quality throughout the Catskill/Delaware system remains excellent.

The next requirement in the continuance of the existing FAD is to develop updated program plans for the second five years. To initiate that process, program managers are preparing planning sheets that establish program activities and define reporting milestones for the period

2012 to 2017. Internal meetings are being held with the program managers, their staff and the FAD negotiation team to review draft planning sheets and prepare for presentation to the regulators. Negotiation meetings have begun with the regulators. This process will culminate with the submission of the DEP's 2011 Revised Long Term Watershed Protection Program for the Second Five Year Period on December 15, 2011.



Above: 2011 FAD report released March 2011

DEP IN THE NEWS

Learn more about the reconstruction of the Gilboa Dam at: http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/press_releases/11-47pr.shtml

NYS and NYC sign a multi-state Water Management Agreement. Read more at: http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/press_releases/11-42pr.shtml

Read Commissioner Holloway's statement on the Water Board's vote to adopt fiscal year 2012 water rate: http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/press_releases/11-37pr.shtml

DEP awards \$3.8M in grants for Community Based Green infrastructure program projects: http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/press_releases/11-46pr.shtml

An article on improving water quality in Jamaica Bay can be found at: http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/press_releases/11-43pr.shtml



Rewriting the Revocable Land Use Permit Rules

DEP issues Land Use Permits to allow temporary use of City lands when a contract or other type of agreement is absent. All permits are revocable at the will of the Commissioner and BWS attaches conditions to each permit to ensure activities are conducted in a manner that protects water quality, ensures permittees are following applicable laws, regulations and health and safety requirements, and to protect the city from liability.

Permits range from large utility infrastructure to residential driveway use. There are currently over 1,100 active land use permits and, on average, DEP issues 25 new permits per year. Most land use permits do charge the permittee a fee. The annual revenue for land use permits is approximately \$1.5 million.

WPP's Natural Resources Man-

agement (NRM) section oversees the review and issuance of land use permits. This complex task involves getting input on applications from units throughout DEP, including other parts of WPP, Operations and DEP Legal. Once permits are issued, NRM must track to make sure permitted activities are undertaken in compliance with the relevant conditions and that permit fees are paid promptly.

The process and standards for issuing permits are governed by City regulations. DEP is currently revising its rules and regulations for issuing revocable land use permits. The last time the rules were revised was in 1991. Highlights of the new rule changes include the ability to waive application and annual permit fees for low-impact water quality and recreation projects, DEP-funded or sponsored pro-

jects, or emergency uses of City land. In addition, all permits must be renewed every 5 years and NRM staff is now working on a process to implement this requirement beginning in 2012.

Other highlights include the ability to require surety bonds for restoration or to cover any damage to City property, improved revocation language, a requirement for permittees to remove any structure left on City land after the permit expires and a prohibition from selling City property such as trees and soil.

This version of the rules is much more specific than the previous version and will be reviewed by the Mayor's Office of Operations to ensure they are user-friendly. Public hearings will be held in July and the rules should become effective by September.

You May Already Have Won!

As reported in earlier editions, DEP, with the assistance of Hazen and Sawyer/Leggette, Brashears and Graham, evaluated the potential impacts from natural gas development with a focus on water quality, water quantity and water supply infrastructure. Big news! The project recently won two 2011 Engineering Excellence Awards from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) - a Diamond award for excellence in the category of studies, research and consulting from the New York competition and a National Recognition Award from the national competition. The project will be featured in the May/June issue of Engineering Inc.





Above: Abbie Duchon and her new husband Gregg St. Clair

Below: John Drake



Personal Notes

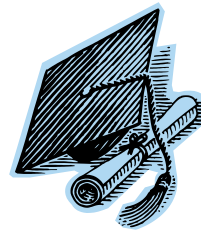
Congratulations...

to Abbie Duchon from Land Acquisitions who married Gregg St. Clair on April 30th in Rhinecliff, NY.



to John G. Drake (of REP - Stormwater Programs) who has earned his second B.S. Degree - this time in Civil Engineering from Manhattan College (Magna Cum Laude). He is already 3 courses into his Masters Degree at the same school. He recently

passed his FE (Fundamentals Exam) and is preparing for the PE exam.



Welcome ...

to the 13 interns from UCCC that are assisting NRM staff in: Fisheries: Luis J. Rodriguez and Evan Leahy; Forestry: Denielle Bockelmann, Ian Dunn and Sarah Schultz; Invasive Species: Alexander Seaman, Jason Dumond, Cailee Kellogg, Nicholas Holochuck, Emily Landers and Janice Rich; Wetlands: Brielle Gurr and Rebecca Lindemann



Personal Notes

Welcome ...

to Working Lands intern Stephanie Mogil who has come to us through the DEP internship program. She is studying Biology at SUNY New Paltz.

to REP intern Giovanna Olson who will be working EOH. She is attending Wooster University in Massachusetts studying Civil Engineering.



Starting top right clock wise:

Giovanna Olson, Brielle Gurr,
Stephanie Mogil, Rebecca Lindemann

