

## DEP Water Dragons



The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival was held on August 8 and 9 at Flushing Meadows Corona Park and a team of DEP employees, called the Water Dragons, raced in the 250-meter Municipal Invitational. This was the fourth year for the DEP Dragon Boat team and on Saturday they placed as second runner up with their fastest race time to date. The 14 member team was made up of DEP employees from EHS, BWT, BCS, OIT, BWSO, FMC, Sustainability, and BPA. Click [here](#) to view additional photos of the team on race day.

## Spotlight on Safety

### Legionnaire's Disease

Legionnaire's disease has been prominent in recent news reports due to an outbreak in the south Bronx where at least 12 people have died and over 100 others have been sickened with the disease. Legionnaire's is a type of pneumonia that is caused by high concentrations of legionella bacteria in water. However, it is important to note that the New York City drinking water supply is safe.

Outbreaks of Legionnaire's disease are sometimes the result of improper maintenance of cooling towers in the rooftop air conditioning systems of large buildings. The disease is not spread by person to person contact, but rather by inhaling or ingesting the legionella microbes, which may be present in mists from contaminated water. Heat exchangers, cooling towers, whirlpool spas and showers are all capable of spreading legionella if

they are not properly maintained. DEP personnel who are tasked with working with HVAC equipment or inspecting cooling tower meters should always follow best management practices, including the following:

- before inspecting cooling tower meters, inquire if the towers are regularly maintained and cleaned to prevent growth of Legionnaire's disease bacteria
- avoid inspecting cooling tower meters at positively identified locations until the source of the outbreak has been properly addressed/cleaned
- wear N-95 dust masks and gloves when inspecting any cooling tower meters

For additional information, visit [New York City's Fact Sheet on Legionnaire's](#) or [OSHA's Legionnaire's e-Tool](#).

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

*Angela Licata, DEP's Deputy Commissioner for Sustainability, is a guest commentator this week.*

Due to a changing climate, New York City expects to see an increasing number of intense precipitation events during the coming years. This will affect many aspects of DEP's operations, including the management of stormwater. In some areas of the city, DEP operates separated storm sewers, meaning they collect and convey only stormwater, and discharge it without treatment into local waterways. However, as stormwater flows over city playgrounds, sidewalks and streets before it enters a catch basin, it can sweep up pollutants which can degrade harbor water quality.

Effective as of August 1, 2015, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) issued New York City a citywide Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit as required under the Clean Water Act. Pursuant to Executive Order, DEP is the delegated agency to act on behalf of the City, and to coordinate the efforts of all City agencies in coming into compliance with the regulations set forth in the MS4 permit.

The permit requires the development of a Stormwater Management Program (SWMP), which converts into a comprehensive plan to describe how the City will address stormwater discharges through Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other controls. These include public education and outreach, mapping, illicit discharge detection



and elimination, construction site stormwater runoff control, post-construction stormwater management—both on public and private property, pollution prevention/good housekeeping for municipal operations and facilities, industrial and commercial stormwater pollution control, floatable and settleable trash and debris control, and development of a monitoring and assessment program. In addition, further cost-effective and feasible stormwater control measures are required in the drainage areas for priority MS4 water bodies, including green infrastructure and other structural retrofits.

The citywide permit is being coordinated by DEP, but will require the participation of several departments across the City, including additional recordkeeping and a comprehensive annual report. DEP's Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis is leading the development of the SWMP and is working in close collaboration with the Bureaus of Water and Sewer Operations, Wastewater Treatment, and Legal Affairs, as well as the City Law Department.

By working closely with DEC to set forth the agreed upon guidelines within the MS4 permit, we will improve how New York City manages stormwater at both public and private properties and further our mission of improving the health of local waterways.

Thank you all for your continued support in these efforts as we continue to develop the required programs and implementing the SWMP. For specific permit-related concerns or questions, please feel free to contact the MS4 Team at [MS4@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:MS4@dep.nyc.gov).



## Rain - Barrel Giveaway



This past weekend, DEP joined New York State Senator **Ruben Diaz** in the south Bronx, Assembly Member **Mike Miller** in Glendale and Assembly Members **Phil Goldfeder** and **Joseph Addabbo** in Broad Channel to provide free Rain Barrels to 520 homeowners. DEP has now given away more than 1,500 rain barrels this summer. The 60-gallon rain barrels are easy to install and connect directly to a property owner's downspout to capture and store the stormwater that falls on the rooftop. The water collected in the rain barrel can then be used to water lawns and gardens, or for other outdoor chores. To see more photos click [here](#).

## Water-Energy Nexus



Last month, senior members of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) were in New York City for a roundtable discussion on the inter-linkages and efficiency opportunities between energy and water systems. While they were in town, they also took a tour of the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and learned first-hand about DEP's initiative to add organic waste to the digester eggs and refine the methane gas byproduct into pipeline-quality natural gas. Pictured above from left to right are: **Diana Bauer**, U.S. DOE's Director of Office of Energy Systems Analysis and Integration; **Kevin Knobloch**, U.S. DOE Chief of Staff; **Kathleen O'Connor**, NYSERDA Senior Project Manager; **Anthony Fiore**, Director of DEP's Energy Office; **Mark Johnson**, Director, U.S. DOE Advanced Manufacturing Office; **Heidi VanGenderen**, U.S. DOE Director of External Affairs; **Sam Bockenbauer**, U.S. DOE Energy Policy Systems Analysis; **Scott Hutchins**, U.S. DOE Advanced Manufacturing Office and **Frank Loncar**, DEP's Facility Manager for the Newtown Creek and Rockaway Wastewater Treatment Plants.

## Intern Farewell



The DEP Summer Intern Class of 2015 gave their final presentations last week. This year, 77 graduate and undergraduate interns covered topics ranging from water quality management and pollution prevention, to archives and records and computer applications. The interns began their DEP journey with an orientation at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in early June. Over the course of the summer, they also had the opportunity to go on a sludge boat tour and visit Ashokan Reservoir, the Cat-Del UV Facility and the Staten Island Bluebelt, among several other field trips and seminars. We would like to thank the interns for their hard work, and the staff that supervised them for cultivating an appreciation for DEP's mission in the next generation.

## Welcome Aboard



Yesterday, 20 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources **Zoe Ann Campbell**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

**Diana Dellfiora**, **Latiyyah Eafford**, **Kenneth Howard**, **Tamara Lane**, **Natasha Loving** and **Jo-Ann Pirela** with BCS; **Serge Bernard**, **Vladimir Curinoi** and **Keithanel DeChalus** (not pictured) with BWSO; **Michael Gallo** and **Yamil Santos Morales** with BWT; **Helen Nieman** and **Sibel Ozbek** with BEDC; **James Pallias** and **Andrew Yager** with BWS; **Desai Baptiste** with the Commissioner's Office; **Wilson Day** with Facilities; **Michael Grosso** with BEC; **Pasquale Laucella** with BPS; and **Belinda Leung** with Sustainability.

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