



## Environmental Protection

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor  
Cas Holloway, Commissioner

WEEKLY

# PIPELINE

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## GREAT PARTNERSHIPS, GREAT RESULTS



For a while, Boiceville—a hamlet in Ulster County—was the home to the expressionist painter Al Held, whose “Passing Through” mural adorns the Lexington Avenue/East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street Subway Station. Some more permanent fixtures for the Boiceville community include the recently-completed wastewater treatment plant, sewer and stormwater systems. Water Supply’s Associate Project Manager **Tom Staller** oversaw construction of these facilities, and he will stay on to monitor the startup of the treatment plant. Tom worked with Section Chief

for Community Planning **Mike Meyer** to deliver these new facilities, which are another example of what DEP can accomplish when the Agency works with its partners to address a common need.

The Boiceville work is a classic win-win: DEP funded the \$12 million project and the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) managed the work on DEP’s behalf. The new plant will treat up to 75,000 gallons of wastewater per day, and the new sewer mains will replace septic systems that served 126 properties. DEP will continue to fund the majority of the operating costs of the new plant.

“Partnering with the city for clean drinking water is a win for both upstate and downstate,” said CWC Executive Director **Alan Rosa**. “Upstate residents in the watershed are stewards for the water supply and the city provides dollars for programs that protect the supply. Those dollars put upstate residents to work to build

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## Spotlight on Safety

### EHS Survey Update

Results have been tabulated for the 1st DEP EHS survey. In depth analysis will continue through the summer a final report will be made available to all employees in the fall. Here are some results:

- We received 1,930 completed surveys—a respectable response rate of 32%!
- The offices with the highest response rates: ACCO (68%) and OEHS (60%).
- The mission support bureaus with the highest response rates: BEPA (65%), BCS (56%) and BEC (44%)
- The three operating bureaus: BWS (35%), BWSO (30%) and BWT (26%).
- 87% of DEP employees surveyed feel safe (“mostly” or “very”) at

their job. This rate was highest for BEDC employees (100%) and lowest for BPS (78%).

- The EHS “concerns” that received the most mentions were:

- Injury: 47% of DEP employees
- Having the right equipment: 46%
- Indoor air quality: 45 % of all DEP employees
- Slips/Trips and falls - 37%
- Ergonomics – 37%

EHS concerns and suggestions gathered from the survey are also being analyzed for each bureau and workplace (field versus office, upstate/downstate) to better determine areas of opportunity. Look out for additional updates. Thanks for your participation!

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

The punishing heat has continued, and with it, the tremendous efforts of our 5,800 employees to make sure water is supplied and treated, air quality is maintained, noise standards are met, and that we meet our customers’ needs. Thank you to everyone for an outstanding performance during this challenging summer.

Yesterday, I joined **Mayor Bloomberg**, **Speaker Quinn**, **Councilman Gennaro** and others to announce groundbreaking legislation that will cut the sulfur content of #4 heating oil in half, and require that all heating oil contain at least 2% biodiesel by 2012. The bill will dramatically improve air quality and reduce illegal grease dumping in our sewers—a double victory for PlaNYC and DEP. Read more here.

I recently toured the Queens Groundwater System and Pipe Yard at the Third Ward Garage in Queens with DC for BWSO **Jim Roberts**, Director of Distribution Operations **Mike Farnan**, Acting Chief of Groundwater and Pumping Operations **Andrew Kuchynsky** and Manager of Groundwater Operations **Thomas Tengelsen**. Purchased by the City in 1996, the system is a network of 68 well stations that were once part of the independent Jamaica Water Supply Company. Though DEP initially used the groundwater to supply Southeast Queens, 10 years of investments enabled us to supply the entire area with water from the Catskill and Delaware watersheds. While the groundwater system is not in use today, it remains important as a back-up water supply in the event of a drought or emergency. Thanks to everyone who participated in the tour, and to Third Ward Manager **John Zollo** for the hands-on lesson in gate-valve operations.

Last Friday, thanks to excellent confined space training provided by **Kevin McElynn**, the Health and Safety Coordinator for Reservoir Operations, I was able to descend with a small team into the South Connecting Conduit at Hillview Reservoir. The conduit connects City Tunnel No. 1 Downtake 1 with City



Tunnel No. 2 Downtake 2 (water from the Delaware and Catskill Aqueducts enters Hillview via Uptakes; water enters City Tunnels Nos. 1, 2, and 3 for distribution via Downtakes), and has been de-watered to conduct maintenance and repairs. Supervisor Watershed Maintainer **Bobby Musliwala**, Chief of Reservoir Operations **Wilfredo Melendez**, P.E., and the rest of the BWSO team showed me how the conduit adjusts drinking water volumes as demand fluctuates. And thanks as well to Sgt. **Shane Turck** and a group of Emergency Service Unit Officers for their assistance.

Tours like these underscore the magnitude of DEP’s infrastructure and that keeping it properly maintained is costly. Two weeks ago I took that message to Congress to provide an update on projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, a.k.a. the stimulus bill. While our needs are still enormous, it was a welcome return to federal support for water infrastructure—a smart national investment that is badly needed. The testimony is here.

This past Saturday, I participated in City of Water Day, a celebration of New York Harbor organized by the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance. We sailed aboard the *Clipper City* from Pier 17 at South Street Seaport to Governor’s Island—the City’s newest park. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of BWT and many others at DEP, I reported that the harbor is the healthiest it’s been in 100 years; we’ll have more to say about that this fall when we release a special centennial Harbor Survey Report. Read about the day here. And remember to stay cool!

## Milestones

Congratulations to **William Brunell**, District Supervisor, BWSO, on his retirement after nearly 30 years of service.

## Focus on the Field



In his 26 years on the job, **Sam Zarcone** has found some strange stuff in the City's catch basins. He's found keys, bracelets and diamond rings. But last Wednesday, Sam—a Construction Laborer for Bronx Sewer Maintenance—found a three-month old cat named Motz.

Motz had been in the catch basin for over a day when DEP received a call from 311. The kitten had crawled into a 10-inch pipe at the back of the catch basin and walked about 25 feet back into the piping.

Sam heard the cat meowing and called for special equipment: a catch basin crane to lift away the grate, and a special TV camera on a long, flexible wire. DEP normally uses these cameras to inspect sewers and coordinate repairs. The camera has a light at the end of it, so Sam and his crew could see that Motz was all right. As he pulled the camera back, Motz followed the light, batting at the camera lens.

As Motz got closer, Sam grasped it quickly by the back of its neck and returned him to her grateful owner. "You should have seen her face," says Sam. "It was like a million bucks."

Sam had already rescued two cats and a dog before saving little Motz. And Sam's brother Vincent, a recently-retired Construction Laborer, once rescued a dog during his 25-year tenure working for DEP. It must run in the family!

## Event Calendar:

DEP's NYC Water-On-the-Go fountains will be out Tuesday through Sunday every week through Labor Day. For specific information, [click here](#)

If anyone is interested in volunteering to staff a Water-on-the-Go fountain, please contact Eva Lynch at 718-595-3487.

If you have any DEP related events coming up that you would like listed in the event calendar, please send them to us at [newsletter@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:newsletter@dep.nyc.gov).

## DEP: Then & Now

### Then:

This photo, dated June 9, 1914, is at the Ashokan Reservoir and captures the Stone Church Bridge over the continuation of the spillway channel. It is a fixed end arch with a 175 foot span and 25 foot rise.



### Now:

New York City owns approximately 102 miles of public highway and 55 bridges in the upstate watershed. The Stone Church Bridge spans the Ashokan Dam Spillway channel which leads to the Esopus Creek. Work on the bridge replacing portions of the superstructure began last month and is scheduled to be completed by next June.



## Ask Cas

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

**Q.** I was looking at last week's pipeline and I noticed that in the picture of the Lab-Technician from 1948, she has absolutely no PPE on. I was curious, when did PPE in the labs become regulated and how was it decided what exactly should be worn? Was it more of a proactive decision or a reactive decision? — Submitted Anonymously

**A.** Personal protective equipment (PPE) is a regulatory requirement from the Occupational Health & Safety Act (OSHA). OSHA was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Richard M. Nixon in 1970. PPE falls under the "general duty clause" of the law which requires employers to ensure that employees have and use PPE when required for safety and health.

The use of appropriate PPE in laboratories falls under the same OSHA standard that requires developing Chemical Hygiene Plans to protect employee health and safety in chemical or biological laboratory work environments. In November 1983, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration published its Hazard Communications Standard which applied to certain laboratories. After the standard was published, the Agency received many comments regarding whether the Hazard Communication Standard procedures should apply to laboratories, because of the unique differences for laboratories such as small amounts of or the vast numbers of different chemicals used. The Agency concluded that while "laboratory workers are, in general, a well educated work force, there is evidence that many laboratories do not have health and safety programs" and later proposed the "Occupational Exposures to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories" rule from which the Chemical Hygiene Plan originates. On January 31, 1990, the Department of Labor published 29 CFR 1910.1450; its title being: "Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in the Laboratory," and required the development of a Chemical Hygiene Plan. The standard came into effective May 1, 1990.

PPE is identified and selected for an employee following an assessment by a qualified EHS individual of the risks (chemical and/or physical) that an employee may encounter while performing routine and/or non-routine work tasks or duties.

## Did You Know?

...that vuvuzelas—the beehive-sounding horns that have become famous during the recent World Cup soccer matches—can produce deafening sounds with intensity levels that vary from 113 decibels to 127 decibels. This is almost as loud as a nearby jet takeoff (130 decibels) and louder than a lawn mower (85-90 dB(A), a train (100 dB(A), and a power saw (110 dB(A).

### (Great Partnerships, Great Results... - continued)

infrastructure that protects the water, which saves the City billions on building and operating a water filtration plant."

Because both City and local residents depend on a clean watershed and modern infrastructure, DEP is continually working with CWC and other upstate partners to identify new initiatives and solutions. The Agency has committed over \$1.5 billion to the upstate watershed program since 1997. In Fiscal Year 2010, DEP purchased approximately 11,000 acres of land to expand the watershed. DEP employs 933 people throughout the watershed. The money and resources DEP has committed upstate has and continues to provide

an excellent return-on-investment, as nearly everyone agrees that protecting the City's source waters is the best way to ensure the City's water over the long term.

DEP has maintained a Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) continually since 1993. In 2007, the City secured a 10-year FAD. This designation testified to the continued high quality of the City's water, and distinguished NYC as one of only five large cities in the country not required to filter a majority of its drinking water.

And now with the completion of the Boiceville work, DEP has once again made progress through partnerships.

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