

**From:** [Strickland Jr., Carter H.](#)  
**Subject:** Weekly Pipeline - Extra Edition - Employees of the Month for May  
**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2013 6:37:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [7321BA72-9D14-46DD-92C4-40AC869432B5.png](#)  
[CE1CE341-A771-445E-A590-ECC6D67A1C82.png](#)  
[0801F823-4188-43AE-BE83-C4F9981D68CD.png](#)



Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor  
Carter Strickland, Commissioner

WEEKLY

# PIPELINE

EXTRA

June 20, 2013

Volume IV • Issue 180A



## DEP Employees of the Month for May 2013

In recognition of June as National Safety Month, DEP has dedicated the May Employee of the Month awards and our June ceremony to employees who have made significant contributions to advancing Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) in their unit, bureau or the agency as a whole. The criteria for selection were:

- An employee who consistently demonstrated through measurable EHS performance a sustained commitment to EHS excellence in his/her workplace, division, bureau, or agency as a whole; and/or
- An employee who contributed a specific idea or suggestion that resulted in improving safety or environmental compliance in his/her workplace, division, bureau or agency as a whole.

DEP is a great agency that delivers services that millions of New Yorkers depend on daily. Making good on that promise requires the dedication and hard work of the nearly 6,000 employees at DEP. To nominate someone who has demonstrated uncommon dedication and excellence, fill out the nomination form with some basic information, such as the nominee's responsibilities, examples of extraordinary performance, and ways candidates set an example for others. The form is available on Pipeline, and you'll need to submit it by the tenth day of each month. The award ceremony will be held at the end of the month. For more information, email Herb Roth at [hroth@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:hroth@dep.nyc.gov).

The Employees of the Month for May, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on June 20 with Commissioner Strickland, during which they received a certificate, and had their names added to the Employee of the Month Board on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> floors at Lefrak and at the Kingston Office. These men and women set a standard for all of us to emulate and appreciate.



### Water & Sewer Operations - Angela DeLillo

Angela began her DEP career in August 1992 and serves as the Bureau's Chief of Capital Coordination. On May 6, 2013, the contractor assigned to Groundwater Station 26 observed an oily substance in the well's standing water column during pumping operations. As outlined in the work plan, the contractor is required to test the water that is removed from the well, however, the contractor suspected it was a residual of the normal groundwater pumping operation and did not do so. At the end of the work day, the contractor drummed the oily substance, placed it on a truck, and transported it to another location. In addition to the drummed material not being tested, the drum was not labeled as is required by both waste management regulations and DEP policy.

Upon reading an e-mail detailing the day's activities, Angela questioned the handling of the oily substance and its subsequent removal. Upon receiving confirmation that proper protocols were not followed, she immediately notified all parties involved and asked that the material in the drum be tested and the drum properly labeled.

It is important to note that had it not been for Angela's quick response, DEP and the City could have encountered environmental liability and found to be out of compliance with U.S. Department of Transportation rules and regulations for transporting hazardous materials. In addition, since the drum was not properly labeled and its contents unknown, in the event of a fire the situation would have slowed, and possibly endangered first responders. However, thanks to Angela's attention to detail, the material stored in the drum was tested, was found to be non-hazardous, and was labeled as such.



#### Facilities Management and Construction - **Jude Imohi**

Jude began his career with DEP in August 2009 and serves as an Industrial Hygienist for the Asbestos Task Force (ATF) unit within the Division of Facilities Management & Construction. He is certified by New York City, New York State, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for handling hazardous materials and keeping personnel safe, and he has overseen both small and large projects and kept them on schedule.

One of Jude's recent projects was assessing and abating the hazardous asbestos at the 98,000 square foot Eltingville Pumping Station on Staten Island. He instructed the contractors on medical prescreening, methods of removal, and safety hazards. His comprehensive planning and guidance resulted in an on-time and successful remediation. Most recently, Jude responded to an emergency water main break that resulted in the closure of Queens Boulevard in Forest Hills. His communication and coordination skills helped ensure that the situation was resolved and service restored as quickly as possible. Jude always remains poised and is a true team player. He also makes suggestions for improvement including the streamlining of paperwork and reports.



#### Water Supply - **John Scott Engelen**

John Scott Engelen began his career with DEP in September 2009 and serves as a Health and Safety Coordinator.

J. Scott maintains the Occupational Medical Contract for the bureau and his attention to detail is essential to ensuring the health and safety of all employees. Thanks to J. Scott, any employee requiring medical monitoring or clearance receives it in a timely fashion and all employees and supervisors are aware of medical clearances and restrictions. In addition, he identified the need for a more comprehensive tracking system and took it upon himself to research various alternatives. He presented his recommendations and, after receiving approval, began working with the Office of Information Technology to develop a database system.

J. Scott has also voluntarily taken on a myriad of roles including acting as the primary compliance contact for the bureau where he has been pro-active in defining what programs and training requirements apply, updating Personal Protective Equipment assessments, and defining confined space attendant responsibilities.



#### Wastewater Treatment - **Joseph Reddington**

Joseph began his career with DEP in November 1979 and currently serves as the Chief of Safety for the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment. Whether it is a spill, an injury, a fire, or a simply a question of how to do a task safely, Joseph is the bureau's go-to-guy.

On May 22, 2013, Joseph responded to a call of a sodium hypochlorite spill in which two employees were overcome by chlorine fumes at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant's screen chamber. This response is one example of the hundreds of incidents that Joseph has successfully addressed in his 23 years with the bureau.

As early as 2002, Joseph was already working on safety matters, including reporting spills, confined space training, right-to-know, and proper waste management, to name just a few. Further, over time, other bureaus and agencies have reached out to Joseph to tap into his extensive experience on these matters. Joseph is truly deserving of this recognition as he has dedicated the majority of his long career with DEP to the safety of his fellow employees.



#### Environmental Compliance - **Gregory Fruchtman**

Gregory began his career with DEP in July 2007 and he serves as an Asbestos Analyst for the bureau. His principal tasks involve performing laboratory tests on building materials to determine if they contain asbestos fibers. This work is essential to ensuring the health and safety of the public and the workers at the building site. It is also important to private industry that these analyses be completed in a safe and expeditious manner. Working with the laboratory team, Gregory always ensures that the safety of himself and other Analysts is paramount when handling the samples. He also performs regular safety inspections on laboratory equipment to ensure it is functioning properly and has been commended by EHS auditors on his research and selection of eyewash stations for the laboratory.

## **Commissioner's Award:**



### **Environmental, Health and Safety - Audit Team**

It is the mission of the Office of Environmental, Health and Safety (OEHS) to ensure compliance and promote EHS excellence throughout DEP. The OEHS Audit team plays a significant role in DEP's ongoing commitment to achieve a very high level of EHS compliance. The team has also demonstrated a passion for their work and provided their perspective, knowledge, and technical expertise to bureaus, divisions, and facilities through the assessment process. Finally, in partnership with all bureaus, they have a primary role in helping DEP meet its strategic goals, including:

- measuring EHS performance and demanding success
- integrating EHS compliance into every aspect of DEP operations and construction

The team members frequently make actionable suggestion to bureaus and OEHS Managers alike on how to make improvements to EHS systems. Some examples of their suggestions that have turned into actionable projects include:

- development of an EHS Audit Manual
- improved collection and reporting of EHS Audit metrics
- development of an improved audit report template and audit checklists
- professional development

Through the implementation of programmatic audit approach and some staffing level changes over the last two years, the audit process has become more efficient. This would not have been possible without the team's involvement and their willingness to try different approaches. As a result, OEHS has been able to reduce direct costs by approximately 25 percent and reduce the time spent at facilities by 10 to 30 percent, while still providing a quality audit and report. This also creates less operational disruption.

Finally, the auditors exhibit a thirst for learning more, and a commitment to their own professional development. They frequently step aside and help each other in researching a regulation and share knowledge easily with their peers. All auditors are going through cross training so that they may develop expertise in both environmental as well as health and safety compliance and best practices.

#### **OEHS Audit Team:**

**David Olton, Tejindra Gharti-Chhetry, Pierre Saint-Louis, Anthony Bellantoni, Shalim Uddin, Marilyn Julmis, Svetlana Khomutova, Konstantin Zaviyalov, Leonel Batista, Isameldin Osman and Andrea Shivcharan.**