

Commissioner's Corner



Although we are now well into January, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate some of our accomplishments from the last year and to recognize all of you who, amongst other important tasks, kept our 24-7 operation going by

acting as stewards of our waterways and by making sure New Yorkers continuously received the highest quality drinking water.

Last year, we commenced a project that has been in the planning stages for more than two decades as we lowered Nora, one of the world's most advanced tunnel boring machines, 854 feet below ground to perform work that is an integral part of our \$1 billion project to repair the 85-mile Delaware Aqueduct. We also joined **Mayor de Blasio** to announce that with the continued expansion of the nation's most ambitious green infrastructure program and by making crucial investments in the City's waste-



water system, testing confirms that New York Harbor is cleaner and healthier today than it has been in more than a century. And we continued the expansion of the Staten Island Bluebelt, secured a 10-year Filtration Avoidance Determination for our Catskill and Delaware water supplies, grew access and recreation on watershed properties, protected our critical infrastructure, welcomed a new class of environmental police recruits, announced a new agreement regulating use of Delaware River water, added to our water conservation efforts, conducted extensive outreach as we completed Long-Term Control Plans to reduce pollution in several of the City's waterways, and shared important DEP information with hundreds of in-city and watershed students and educators.

In addition, staff maintained watershed roads and lands, conducted nearly 650,000 drinking water quality tests, installed thousands of feet of new water and sewer

infrastructure, constructed hundreds of new rain gardens and green playgrounds, inspected every catch basin throughout the five boroughs, responded to reports of excessive noise and air pollution, collected regular samples of harbor water, conducted shoreline surveys and illicit connection investigations, maintained and coordinated thousands of DEP Fleet vehicles and equipment as we implement the Mayor's Vision Zero initiative, upgraded and maintained hundreds of DEP facilities throughout the five boroughs, and continued to have top notch customer service which, according to a J.D. Power Customer Satisfaction Survey, helped earn DEP the top water utility in the northeast honor.

A digital gallery celebrating our work in 2017, and the work of our talented photographers, is available [here](#). Thank you all for your continued dedication to our mission to protect public health and the environment.

Spotlight on Safety

Year End Recap 2017

As 2017 has come to an end, let's take a moment to reflect on some important Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) accomplishments within the Office of Environmental, Health and Safety (OEHS):

- launched DEP's first Incident Information Management System
- DEP's first Safety Day
- developed and revised several significant EHS policies and guidelines
- delivered new computer based trainings
- professional certifications in the field of health and safety were received by several employees
- expanded benchmarking and engagement opportunities outside of DEP

- completed 27 high-quality EHS audits
- instructed hundreds of training classes
- made significant technological advancements, such as tablets and new information systems
- conducted a very successful and thorough Process Safety Management and Risk Management Plan audit

As for what's coming in 2018?

- DEP's first Safety Week
- development of a new Silica Management Policy
- DEP's EHS Employee Handbook
- a new OEHS SharePoint webpage

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.



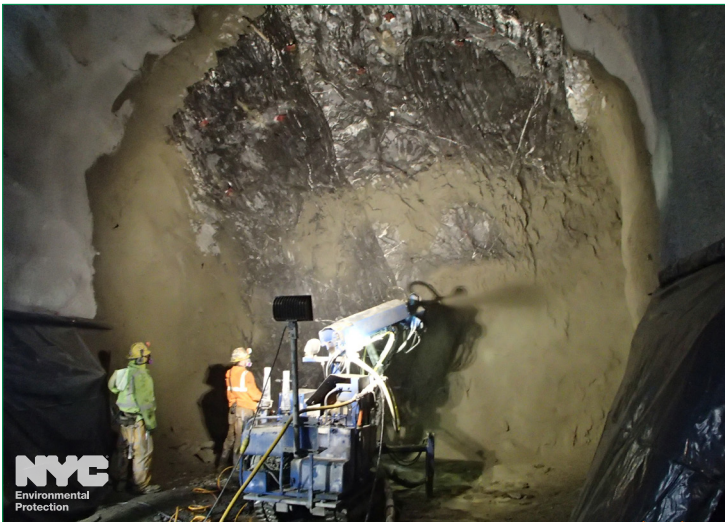
DEP In the News



As reported last week in the [Times Herald Record](#):

“At 7:45 p.m. Monday, the tunnel-boring machine known as Nora began her star turn in New York City’s \$1 billion fix of its leaking Delaware Aqueduct. Nora will spend the next 20 months boring a 22-foot wide and 2.5-mile long tunnel 600 feet beneath the Hudson River between Newburgh and Wappinger. She will work 24 hours a day, 6 days a week... Before the boring began Monday, a priest offered a prayer for the safety of Nora and the 100 men and women who will work alongside her. The ceremony is a tradition in the industry. The project, which began in 2013, is scheduled to be completed in 2022.”

Shotcrete for Safety



While most of the work for the Delaware Aqueduct Bypass Tunnel is happening on the west side of the Hudson River in Newburgh, crews are continuing to work underground at Shaft 6B in Wappinger. Each of the new shafts is located about 300 feet away from the existing Delaware Aqueduct. Crews on both side of the river have used traditional drill-and-blast techniques to build a tunnel toward the existing aqueduct for the connections that will be made starting in 2022. As they blast these sections of tunnel, shotcrete is added to the lining. This unique form of concrete is sprayed onto the walls for initial rock fall support, preventing smaller chunks of rock from falling off the walls of the tunnel and potentially striking one of the workers.

Winter Farm Share Program Begins



The Corbin Hill Food Project is returning Jan. 25 to the 3rd floor employee lounge of Lefrak with fresh, local produce for the Winter Farm Share program. For \$15, you can purchase a weekly share that includes 6–8 seasonal produce items (including at least one green and one fruit). Items will be available for pickup every Thursday, from 12–2 p.m. To purchase your weekly farm share, you must pay one week in advance of distribution. Corbin Hill Food Project accepts cash or check (at distribution the week before), credit card, EBT, and Health Bucks. Visit [Corbin Hill Food Project](#) to sign up, and for more information contact Helene Abiola, WorkWell NYC Coordinator at ext. 6088 or abiola@dep.nyc.gov.

Volunteers Needed for HOPE Count



As a reminder, on Monday, Jan. 22, the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS) will conduct its annual Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE), a citywide community volunteer effort to count every New Yorker sleeping on the street across the five boroughs during the coldest time of the year. Volunteers are needed to help canvass parks, subways, and other public spaces to estimate the number of people who are living on the street. HOPE can only be a success with the assistance of our NYC agency colleagues, like you. Homelessness is a citywide problem that demands a citywide solution, and your help is vital. Your fellow New Yorkers need you. Please visit nyc.gov/hope or [CityShare](#) to learn more and to register.

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