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Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Cas Holloway, Commissioner

WEEKLY PIPELINE EXTRA

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DEP Employees of the Month for May 2010

In recognition of June as National Safety Month, we have 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.

Our six Employees of the Month and their families attended a breakfast with the Commissioner at the Visitor Center at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, received a certificate, and are featured below. Additionally, their names have been added to the Employee of the Month Boards displayed on the 3rd and 19th floors at Lefrak, and at the Kingston Office. These men and women set a standard for all of us to emulate and appreciate.

Human Resources is accepting nominations for Employee of the Month for June 2010. The deadline for submissions is July 9, 2010. To nominate someone who has demonstrated uncommon dedication and excellence, fill out the nomination form, which is available on Pipeline or, for more information, contact Herbert Roth at herbr@dep.nyc.gov.



EDC & Sustainability - Penelope Theodorellis

Penny began her career at DEP in 1988 as an Industrial Hygienist and is currently responsible for environmental health and safety (EHS) matters in the Bureaus of Environmental Compliance and Environmental Planning and Analysis. This function includes the responsibility of Safety Officer on Citywide emergency responses.

Penny serves as a technical resource person for her assigned bureaus and is an active member on several agency-wide EHS strategic planning subcommittees. She performs occupational safety and health investigations, job hazard analyses, coordinates recordkeeping requirements, issues technical reports and audits various facilities under the bureaus' jurisdictions. In addition, she recently was assigned as a liaison for the mission support bureaus, working on the development of EHS metrics for injury and illnesses and reviewing health and safety plans for several Jamaica Bay Ecological Restoration Pilot Projects.

Penny is extremely knowledgeable and skilled in environmental health sciences and is frequently called upon by other bureaus for her expertise and willingness to provide assistance.



WT - Nicholas Tamburrino

Nick began his career with DEP as a Sewage Treatment Worker (STW) in 1985 and was promoted to Senior STW in 2006. Nick's list of accomplishments includes the rehabilitation of the Bowery Bay Dewatering Building. This project was quite a large undertaking and was made more complicated because at one point during the construction the crews had to stop all work due to EHS compliance issues. Demonstrating great commitment and skill, he coordinated with the contractors, plant staff, and the unions to get the EHS code issues resolved and everyone back to work in short order. In addition, Nick has successfully closed out many EHS audit findings throughout the Bowery Bay Plant, with only a few remaining open items. Nick has also been actively involved in ensuring compliance with the Petroleum and Chemical Bulk Storage regulations. During an April 2010 NYS Department of Environmental Conservation inspection of Bowery Bay's Petroleum Bulk Storage tanks, no Notices of Violations or warning notices were issued—a testament to the effort and dedication that Nick exhibits on a daily basis.



WS - Jacqueline Schiffer

Jacqueline began her career at DEP in 1995, and serves as the Section Supervisor for Watershed Water Quality Operations (WWQO). She is currently leading her team in the development of procedures to safely dispose of microbiology laboratory waste. She has done this by researching best practices and getting input from her staff. The end product of this effort will allow the Section to eliminate an annual waste pick-up contract costing \$25,000. Additionally, Jacqueline has provided invaluable guidance on the development of EHS programs for the Bureau's laboratories and field personnel. Due to her strong ability to navigate EHS regulations and mandates, she created and implemented several comprehensive policies and procedures relative to Chemical Hygiene Plans (CHP), Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) and Waste Management initiatives. As a result, she was instrumental in bringing WWQO into regulatory compliance. Her professional dedication has placed her on the forefront of Water Supply's EHS compliance efforts.



WSO - Michael Bilotto

Michael, who has been with DEP since 1988, used his ingenuity and creativity to fabricate a stand-alone support for the air pumps that field operations personnel frequently use. The air pumps that WSO purchased currently come with two factory-installed legs that frequently break after significant field use. As a result, the pumps, which are heavy, were constantly falling over and being damaged. In addition, the unstable pumps presented a storage challenge and an injury risk to the workers since they could topple onto their feet. The vendor developed an attachment stand prototype, which WSO tested, and although it performed well, it was bulkier and more expensive - an estimated \$231 per stand. By using Michael's solution, the agency benefited from a better performing and, with 50 stands needed, a more cost-effective solution. And Michael's co-workers are very appreciative that his idea may prevent unnecessary injuries and out of service pumps.



Administration & Support Bureaus - Melinda Sherer

Melinda began her career with DEP in 1998. Since that day, she has worked diligently to provide invaluable assistance in building and improving DEP's EHS program. She is the primary author (with support from technical staff) of many key EHS policies, training and communication materials. When an EHS professional requires an interpretation of an EHS legal requirement, Melinda provides the information in a timely and thorough manner. Since February, she has led one of the EHS Strategic Plan Teams. Through her leadership and dedication, DEP will be instituting a program to ensure that DEP will track all proposed laws and regulations. This new program will enable DEP to comment on such proposals and ensure that our policies, training and communications are consistent with any new regulatory requirements.

Commissioner's Award:



Anthony Pironti

Anthony Pironti, Supervisor of Watershed Maintenance, Bureau of Water Supply, is selected for the Commissioner's Employee of the Month Award for May for his actions as on-duty Facility Emergency Coordinator (FEC) during a liquid chlorine leak at the Bureau of Water Supply, Delaware Aqueduct Shaft 18 facility, on Sunday, June 13, 2010. He began his career at DEP in 1994.

As the on-duty FEC, Anthony was responsible for taking immediate action and making split-second decisions regarding the level of evacuation and sounding of alarms, the execution of the emergency notification protocol, the selection of investigation and response actions, and the selection of personal protective equipment (PPE), all while maintaining the safety of on-site personnel and the nearby public. Anthony not only adhered to the direction provided in the facility's "Integrated Contingency Plan" (ICP), he addressed the leak "hands on" by implementing the Plan's "Equipment-Specific Repair/Isolation Procedure" for a potential "Chlorine Ton Container Partial Failure." His swift actions prevented substantial damage to the facility, and ensured the safety of the emergency responders and the public. Beyond these actions, Anthony was also part of the 2nd Emergency Response Entry team to enter the facility, donning full level "A" suits and SCBA breathing apparatus PPE. This team successfully installed a Solvay "B" kit to the tank's valve thereby stopping the leak.

Because the facility crane was damaged during the chlorine release, Anthony stayed on duty and worked the 4 to 12 shift on June 13th, maintaining chlorination on the auxiliary (emergency) system.

For his commendable service to DEP, his coworkers, and the Valhalla community, Anthony is a deserving recipient of the Commissioner's Award.