



DEP Employees of the Month for September

The Employee of the Month program recognizes DEP staff members that have exhibited outstanding personal effort, and have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve the people of New York City.

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 The Source, and you'll need to submit it by the tenth day of each month. For more information, email Herb Roth at hroth@dep.nyc.gov.

The Employees of the Month for September, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on October 30 with Commissioner Emily Lloyd, during which they received a certificate, and had their names added to the Employee of the Month Board 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.



Bureau of Legal Affairs - **Susan Gordon**

Susan began her DEP career in July 2011 and she currently serves as an Executive Agency Counsel. Susan has an extraordinary work ethic and is able to handle high priority requests from both inside and outside of the department in a timely manner. She is also solution focused and serves as an excellent bridge between the legal and policy worlds. Despite dealing with tight deadlines, Susan provides quality feedback on draft contracts, Memorandums of Understanding and other legal documents that can be confidently shared with outside parties.

Susan provides excellent customer service to her internal clients and her responsiveness allows them to plan around when she will be able to provide feedback and guidance. These clear lines of communication allow projects to be completed in an efficient manner. This is especially important when working on projects with City Hall.

Susan's knowledge of the law and attention to detail are an incredible asset for the department. On multiple projects she has picked up on errors and inconsistencies in multi-agency agreements that were overlooked by staff and attorneys from other agencies. As a result, she ensures that the agreements that DEP enters into are well crafted and do not expose DEP to unnecessary legal risk.

Susan is extremely responsive to time sensitive demands and has lent critical legal support to key agency initiatives. She always steps up to take on whatever new challenge is presented to her. Susan is an excellent employee and is well deserving of the Employee of the Month Award.



Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations - **Camille Coleman**

Camille began her DEP career in December 1992 and she currently serves as a Principal Administrative Associate in the Bureau's Engineering and Construction Division. She is a key member of the unit and goes above and beyond her prescribed clerical duties.

Camille has an excellent understanding of standard sewer specifications and is proficient with tasking contractors to complete repair jobs. She is also responsible for contacting the appropriate engineer based upon the nature of emergency repair jobs that are sent to the Division, thereby ensuring that high priority repairs are completed in a timely manner.

Camille routinely maintains the construction database and closely tracks issues so that they can be responded to and closed out as quickly and efficiently as possible. In addition, she prepares letters, completes filing, and updates the Hansen database.

Camille is the only full time clerical employee in the Division and she has a significant number of tasks given to her on a daily basis and handles them all in a professional manner. She has outstanding multitasking skills and is able to coordinate staff meetings, procure office supplies and manage work and vacation schedules, all while successfully completing her other daily assignments.



Bureau of Wastewater Treatment - Pretreatment Investigation Team

Mayank Shukla
Ru Zhao

Mitul Patel
Romil Shah

Chetan Patel
Dalkeith Wright

Charles Taule
Fekade Woldegiorgis

DEP, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Brooklyn District Attorney (D.A.) launched an investigation of a Bedford-Stuyvesant electroplating company in response to a tip from an ex-employee. The allegations claimed that the company was bypassing its pre-treatment system and illegally discharging toxic waste into the sewer system. They were able to do this by rigging a bypass line located underground at its facility in the Newtown Creek drainage area.

Under the provisions of its industrial wastewater permit, the company was required to treat its wastewater and remove pollutants before it was discharged into the combined sewer system leading to the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

From November 21, 2013 to December 9, 2013, employees in BWT's Compliance Monitoring Section (CMS) – Mayank Shukla, Ru Zhao, Fekade Woldegiorgis, Mitul Patel and Romil Shah – installed auto-samplers in the sewers upstream and downstream of the company. CMS personnel met daily with DEC Officers and Brooklyn D.A. investigators in the field to collect the samples and reinstall the auto samplers. The auto samplers collected the company's discharge every 15 minutes, and each bottle was analyzed for heavy metals including Arsenic, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Lead, Mercury, Molybdenum, Nickel, Silver, and Zinc.

The analyses indicated that elevated levels of heavy metals were being discharged from the company during working hours. The Bureau's Inspection and Permitting Section, led by Chetan Patel and Dalkeith Wright, also assisted in the investigation of the illegal discharge by providing details regarding the facility's operations and pretreatment system and other relevant supporting data to the Brooklyn D.A. and DEC.

Charles Taule from the Bureau's Legal Unit worked closely with the D.A.'s Office, BWT inspection and sampling employees, and DEC's law enforcement unit on investigating, gathering evidence, reviewing relevant provisions of law and coordinating the effort to obtain and execute the search warrant. During that search, the investigation team discovered the concealed bypass line that the company had installed.

Based on the thorough investigative work, the D.A.'s office charged the company and its manager with one count of endangering public health, safety or the environment in the fourth-degree; and one count of disposal of hazardous waste without authorization. The Company's manager has pled guilty to illegally dumping toxic wastes. The sentencing date has been set for December 16, 2015 and the company has been ordered to pay a fine of \$165,000.



Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis - Denil Saju

Denil began his DEP career in January 2004 and he currently serves as an Associate Project Manager in the Bureau's Watershed Planning & Modeling Unit. In this role, he works to develop the Combined Sewer Overflow Best Management Practices report, which is submitted to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. He also supports the development of Long Term Control Plans, Superfund projects, and 2D models for the Office of Green Infrastructure.

When Denil first joined DEP he worked as an electrical engineer in the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment, but he has since committed himself to watershed modeling and stormwater and wastewater collection and management. He assists other units and bureaus in these efforts, and always completes his tasks on time. DEP staff and consultants who work with him praise the quality and efficiency of his efforts. His work enhances the environmental health of New York waters by continuously improving the accuracy of our models to make planning and capital improvement decisions. In addition, his drive and expertise helps conserve resources by performing modeling tasks for multiple bureaus that would otherwise require hiring consultants to complete.

Denil has also co-authored several reports and findings, and presented "Green Infrastructure Modeling Approach in InfoWorks" with our consultants at the Low Impact Development Water Environment Federation Collection Systems conferences. He also contributes to Request for Proposals for modeling and other technical work, and assists in reviewing proposals, contracts, and work performed by consultants for accuracy. He teaches new employees how to use the InfoWorks program, as well as methods for updating and running models in the system.

BEPA has had several new hires over the last year, and Denil's years of experience have equipped him to serve as a mentor. And, while his projects don't often overlap with those of other group members, he rarely misses group outings for team building and to celebrate each other's accomplishments. He is a loyal DEP employee and embodies the "One Agency, One Mission" mindset.



Bureau of Water Supply - Brian Genzmann

Brian began his DEP Career in August 2014 and he currently serves as a Contract Officer. His responsibilities include drafting, reviewing and tracking the bureau's formal contract submissions, change orders, amendments, time extensions, and registration documents prior to submission to the Bureau of Legal Affairs and Agency Chief Contracting Office. He also prepares various reports that are distributed to Bureau senior staff and project managers, including status reports on contract procurements, in order to assist operational staff and meet the Bureau's needs.

Brian has demonstrated expert knowledge in NYC procurement rules, policies, and systems. His approach to various procurement actions and understanding of procurement principles makes him an asset to the Bureau. Brian frequently volunteers to step up and assist with projects and works diligently to finish all tasks assigned to him, often working late to complete his projects.

Brian works both independently and in collaboration with Bureau staff in drafting and submitting contract documents such as specifications, pre-solicitation reviews, bid documents, contractor insurance documents, MWBE analysis, and contract award folders. He is always looking for ways to improve contract specifications and works to maintain a good rapport with project managers.

Brian also assisted in developing a very useful "dashboard" that allows for the tracking of all existing contracts and successor contract actions. In addition, he drafted the Standard Operating Procedures and comprehensive training materials for insurance verification procedures. These documents have proven invaluable in providing project managers with the guidance needed to effectively manage their contracts.

Brian fulfills many complex tasks on short notice and his job performance consistently exceeds expectations. He exemplifies the spirit of civil service and is a well-deserved recipient of the Employee of the Month award.



Employee Experience Site Tour Drawing

At today's ceremony, the following awardees and their nominators won passes to participate in one of the upcoming [DEP Employee Experience Site Tours](#).

EOM Awardees: **Dalkeith Wright, Chetan Patel and Mitul Patel / Leslie Lipton** – Nominator, **Camille Coleman / Michael Sullivan** – Nominator and **Susan Gordon / Robin Levine and Albert Kramer** - Nominators

Commissioner Awardees: **Erwin Justine, Nicholas Burton, Aaron Carlson, Lyndsay Vlaovich, John Peterson, Stephen Wood, Brian Rogers, Steven Brown, Matthew Ray and Matthew Garigliano**

Commissioner's Award for September:



The Cannonsville Emergency Repair Team

BWT

Noel Amundsen
Charles Ashe
Steven Brown
Paul Brown
Nicholas Burton
Aaron Carlson
Thomas DeJohn
Dan Everett
Rolyn Fletcher
Lori Froehlich
John Garraffa
Anthony Garigliano
Chris Gozza

Daniel Grommeck
Jennifer Guzman
Peter Heimbuecher
Kevin Heinle
Jeff Helmuth
Crystal Houck
Laurence Hoyt
Mike Jadlicky
Erwin Justine
Patrick Kaja
Pat Kelly
Eric Kight
Emily Kinne

Patrick Lambert
Thomas Lamport
Stacey Mattson
Robert Miller
Joseph Miller
Chris Morgans
Edward Nevin
Kim Nezelek
Kevin O'Brien
Deborah Odell
Robert Pesout
Matthew Ray
Eric Robert

David Rosa
David Ruff
Wilfred Smith
Mary Smith
Dale Stone
Sara Storrer
John Vickers
Lyndsay Vlaovich
Patrick Wayman
Kevin Wilbur
Stephen Wood
Tiffany Zananski

BEDC

Matthew Garigliano
Chris Igoe
John Peterson
Brian Rogers
Sean McAndrew

The Bureau of Water Supply worked diligently this summer to remediate and repair a turbid flow of water below the Cannonsville Dam. This condition was prompted on July 8 while contractors were drilling geotechnical borings to support the design and construction of a hydroelectric plant. During their work, the drillers tapped into an artesian aquifer several dozen feet below ground, which allowed the pressurized groundwater to mobilize sediment into the West Branch Delaware River, just downstream from the dam. The effective response to this incident was the result of a truly collaborative team effort between various units in the Bureau of Water Supply (BWS) and the Bureau of Engineering Design and Construction (BEDC).

BWS' Operations unit took the lead in coordinating the bureau's efforts and had staff on site 24/7 to monitor the dam's condition. Employees conducted professional engineering inspections on a daily basis. The unit took several additional actions to guarantee that the necessary repairs could be made, such as stock piling materials and building a parking lot to provide safe, adequate parking for all DEP staff and contractors on site.

BWS Emergency Planning and Operations staff participated in public outreach events to ensure that the general public's questions were answered about inundation maps and the potential effects that this issue could have caused downstream. In response to this incident, BWS has committed to further its engagement with emergency management officials to examine tools that could be used to improve downstream notification for dam emergencies.

BWS' Watershed Water Quality Operations unit in Grahamsville worked to collect special investigation samples on a daily basis, including weekends, at numerous sites in and around the Cannonsville release and dam. They set up and maintained instrumentation to continuously monitor turbidity changes that might indicate further problems with the dam. In total, the unit collected 450 special investigation samples and performed over 2,800 field and laboratory analyses.

BEDC employees worked closely with BWS staff to ensure that an emergency contractor was procured to perform this work. They oversaw the design and repairs and managed the emergency contracts. Their collaborative efforts ensured that the work could be started as quickly and seamlessly as possible. The actions performed by the entire team resulted in the successful repair of the turbid discharge on August 2nd. This was achieved without compromising water quality or the delivery of drinking water to NYC and upstate communities.

Even after the turbid discharge was stopped, the work of the Cannonsville Emergency Repair Team continued. While the system refilled, BWS and BEDC staff conducted additional monitoring efforts including near real-time monitoring of turbidity downstream of the dam, regular analysis of data from safety instrumentation inside the dam, and inspections of the dam by a professional engineer at least twice a week.

For nearly four months, DEP staff worked tirelessly to ensure that crucial repairs to the area below Cannonsville Dam were completed quickly, safely and effectively.