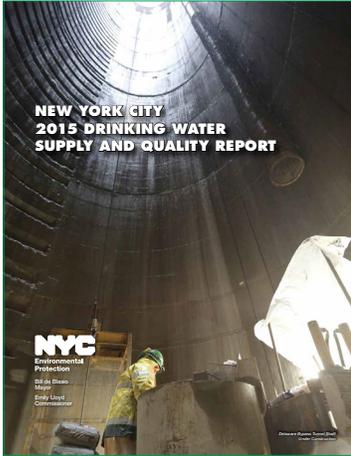


Commissioner's Corner



I am pleased to present [DEP's 2015 Drinking Water Supply and Quality Report](#), which contains important information about the drinking water for nearly half the State's population. The report was prepared in accordance with the New York State Sanitary Code and the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which require all drinking water suppliers to provide the public with an annual statement describing the water supply and the quality of its water. DEP is pleased to report that in 2015, the quality of our drinking water remained high and met or exceeded all health-related state and federal drinking water standards.

New York City is fortunate to have some of the cleanest and best-tasting drinking water of any city in the world. We know that our City's water is great because DEP scientists test its quality hundreds of times each day, and hundreds of thousands of times each year. In fact, our water quality scientists collect more than 47,000 samples of water each year. Those samples are gathered from our expansive reservoir system that stretches more than 125 miles into the Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains. Water samples are also collected from streams that feed our reservoirs, tunnels that deliver our water to the City, and roughly 1,000 street-side sampling stations in the five boroughs. Those water samples are then delivered to one of DEP's four state-of-the-art laboratories where they are analyzed more than 570,000 times annually. The data from this extensive scientific analysis can be found in the pages of the report. The conclusion of this work is simple: New York City has world-class drinking water.

We hope this year's report also provides peace of mind to our fellow New Yorkers who are concerned about lead and other potential contaminants

that have affected a few drinking water supplies across the country this year. New York City is fortunate to have a protected and well regulated watershed that surrounds our reservoirs. DEP is also vigilant about properly treating the City's water to prevent the type of incidents that have transpired elsewhere. Because DEP takes these deliberate steps to protect our water supply and distribution systems, we are confident that incidents such as these will not happen in New York City. The City also benefits from an amazing system of reservoirs, tunnels and other infrastructure that collect and convey more than one billion gallons of drinking water each day. The aqueducts that carry water from the mountains to the City are considered a marvel of modern engineering. To keep



our water system in a state of good repair, DEP has continued to make investments to maintain and improve our infrastructure. You will find details about several recent infrastructure projects within the report. I am proud to present this report to the 8.5 million New Yorkers who rely on DEP to deliver safe, clean, high-quality drinking water every day.

Spotlight on Safety

Employee Concerns Program

Are you aware that DEP's Office of Environmental, Health and Safety (OEHS) offers an Employee Concerns Program?

The EHS Employee Concerns Hotline and [Email Form](#) are provided for DEP employees to report safety, environmental and health concerns with regard to DEP, without fear of reprisal. Employees can call the Employee Concerns Hotline at (800) 897-9677, any time. All communication through the Hotline and Email Form are strictly confidential. There is also an [Employee EHS Concerns Procedure](#) which outlines the process to be used to

ensure the prompt review and resolution of complaints by DEP employees.

OEHS is committed to informing, educating and establishing programs to ensure that DEP's daily operations are conducted in a manner that protects the environment and safeguards the health and well-being of our workforce and the public we serve. Employees who have any general EHS related suggestions or inquiries can send them to EHS@dep.nyc.gov. You should receive a response within 48 hours. For a list of DEP Employee Concerns Liaisons [click here](#).



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.

NYC Hospitals Accept the Challenge



Three of New York City's hospitals have joined the New York City Water Challenge to Hospitals, where they will work to reduce their campus-wide monthly average water consumption by 5 percent. If they reach this goal, they will save approximately 2.2 million gallons of water per month. Participating hospitals include: NewYork-Presbyterian/Queens, Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK) Cancer Center, and NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem. The participants represent a mix of public and private hospitals that provide inpatient care, teaching and research services. The lessons learned from the New York City Water Challenge to Hospitals will be utilized by DEP to develop a best practices guide for water management in all area hospitals.

The hospitals are equipped with water meters and Automated Meter Reading devices which track water consumption in near real time. The hospitals will use 24 months of water consumption data to establish a baseline profile and track their progress

in reducing water consumption and the City will develop a toolkit of resources to help them meet their targets efficiently. Water reduction strategies may include good housekeeping techniques, such as finding and repairing leaks quickly, and developing literature that encourages staff members to practice water conserving behavior. Physical upgrades will also be explored, such as the replacement of inefficient plumbing fixtures and the adoption of new technologies that use water minimally, or reuse it to the extent possible.

DEP has also introduced guides to water efficiency for [restaurants](#) and [hotels](#). They contain water conservation advice in topic areas ranging from low-cost retrofits and equipment replacement to staff education. The guides are a result of lessons learned during earlier water conservation challenges to the city's restaurants and hotels and are distributed throughout the five boroughs in an effort to replicate the success of those efforts. Learn more [here](#).



In the News



"For people who live near the Bowery Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant in Astoria, the smell can sometimes be overwhelming... But the Department of Environmental Protection has a \$3 million dollar plan in the works to substantially reduce the smell. 'Workers are in the process of installing aluminum covers and odor control units on the sludge tanks.'" — See the entire NY 1 story [here](#).

Spring Blood Drive



The Greater New York Blood Program is experiencing a serious shortage due to a fall-off in donations. To help ensure that blood will be available to those who need it, DEP is hosting blood drives at the below locations and times.

Lefrak: 6th Floor Training Room, 3/9 and 3/10, 7:45am to 1:45pm; Downsville Region Area: Downsville, 3/9, 9:00am to 2:00pm; Kensico/Highland Regions - Sutton Park Area: Sutton Park-2nd Floor, 3/10, 8:30am to 2:30pm; Kingston/Catskill Area: 51 Albany Avenue, 3/21 and 3/28, 1:00pm to 6:00pm.

Engineering Mentors

Are you interested in inspiring young students to pursue a career in engineering? On Sunday, April 3, DEP is attending the 2016 Think Engineering Expo at White Plains High School. Come out and join the DEP team as we talk directly to students and share our engineering expertise. More information can be found [here](#). If you're interested in joining or have any questions, email gpigott@dep.nyc.gov or orgdev@dep.nyc.gov.

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