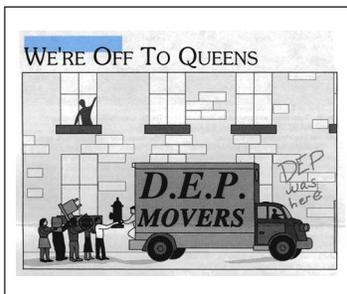


When DEP's Functions Moved to Junction

The year was 1991 and the New York Giants became Super Bowl XXV winners; "Unforgettable," the Natalie Cole duet with her dad Nat King Cole, was Album of the Year; and Hollywood crowned "The Silence of the Lambs" best picture at the Oscars. It was also the year that DEP consolidated nearly a dozen of the agency's offices by moving to one location, Lefrak City in Queens—office space formerly occupied by the Social Security Administration.

When the move happened 20 years ago, in January 1991, Director for Executive/Budget Administration Unit **Frankie Camardella** recalls that there was a large welcome banner hanging on the



Environs, Winter 1989

Junction Boulevard side of the Lefrak tower when he moved in. "I was the first employee to report to Lefrak City and part of the Fiscal Services Division that came from 346 Broadway in Manhat-

(Continued on reverse side)

Spotlight on Safety

Reporting Workplace Violence

Did you know:

- There are 1.5 million incidents of simple assault in the workplace each year?
- About 40% of victims in the workplace reported that they knew their offenders?
- More than 1,000 workplace homicides occur annually?

If you see something, say something. Workplace violence is a serious matter, and each of us has a responsibility to report it.

The person that first notices a workplace violence incident should immediately report it to someone in authority. Every workplace violence incident or allegation must be reported to a supervisor and the DEP Workplace Violence Coordinator (WPV), **Persis Luke**, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Environmental, Health & Safety at 718-595-5266 or lukep@dep.nyc.gov. Call 911 and the Lefrak Security Office (high-rise:

ext. 4519; low-rise ext. 2222) if there is a conflict or emergency situation, or if someone has been seriously injured. If your location is outside NYC, call the appropriate local law enforcement agency, or to notify the DEP Police, call 914-593-7500.

If the above action has not been taken, it is the responsibility of the supervisor or manager to contact the DEP WPV Coordinator, or to call 911 or the appropriate local law enforcement agency, if necessary. The supervisor or manager, or other DEP investigator (EHS, BPS) as designated by the Bureau Chief shall complete a Workplace Violence Incident Report Form and give to their WPV Coordinator within seven days of the incident. Obtain any reports completed by the law enforcement agency and attach them to the WPV report.

Remember, we all have a responsibility to ensure that DEP is a safe and secure workplace.

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.

Communications Corner



This past Friday, the 19th floor held a brief goodbye party for now Deputy Mayor **Cas Holloway** and former DEP Chief of Staff **Lynn Cole**, who has also transferred to City Hall. Cas spoke briefly about how he will take some of his experiences from DEP—particularly our strategic plan goals that clearly define broad agency priorities and the specific initiatives that we will employ to achieve them—and apply them to his new role. As a parting gift, the floor presented Cas with framed copies of the first and last edition of the Weekly Pipeline, a signed charter for DEP's *Water for the Future* program, and we unveiled his photo on the wall of past DEP commissioners. We wish them both well in their new roles at City Hall. Until a search has been completed and the Mayor appoints a permanent Commissioner, **Mayor Bloomberg** has appointed **Steven Lawitts** as Acting Commissioner of Environmental Protection, effective yesterday.

This past Monday, Deputy Commissioner **Paul Rush** and Assistant Commissioner **Dave Warne** attended the 125th annual Delaware County Fair. Each year, DEP and the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) have a joint booth to showcase some of the work we jointly perform in the watershed. DEP contracts with WAC to implement the Watershed Agricultural Program, which works with farmers to prevent or eliminate potential sources of water quality contamination from farm activities in the watershed. This successful partnership is nearing 20 years, and has helped both protect water quality and support the economic viability of farming in the watershed.

In other watershed protection news, DEP just announced the purchase of an additional 1,655 acres up-

state. A total of 19 easements and parcels of land were acquired, ranging in size from 5.3 to 288 acres and located in Delaware, Greene, Schoharie, and Ulster counties. With this purchase, the Land Acquisition Program has now protected more than 120,000 acres from potential development that could degrade water quality. When combined with 44,600 acres that the city owned from the time the reservoirs were created and 200,000 acres of state-owned property, a total of 364,000 acres in the watershed is now protected—roughly 36% of the total acreage in the Delaware and Catskill watersheds.

Last week we said farewell to more than 60 interns in all divisions of the agency. Thirteen groups prepared final presentations to share what they learned in the 10 weeks since completing their orientation at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. The topics ranged from an analysis of solar energy potential at NYC landfills to the condition of road culverts in the watershed to the optimization of the sewer system to reduce combined sewer overflows, but all showed an excellent understanding of how their individual projects contributed to the larger picture of how DEP will fulfill its strategic plan. The interns also visited the Red Hook Wastewater Treatment Plant to take the wastewater treatment course for non-operators from **Walter Dobkowski**, heard about PlaNYC from **David Bragdon** at Governors Island, and visited Gracie Mansion for a barbecue with Mayor Bloomberg. Closer to home, they attended brown bag lunches with DEP senior staff to hear about each division more in depth and learn what makes DEP such a great place to launch a career.



Focus on the Field



When we talk about the different stages DEP has gone through in the last few decades, one person we need to have a conversation with is **Peggy Henderson**, Director of the Asbestos Task Force unit (ATF). Peggy has been at DEP for 27 years and has vivid memories of the moving process into Lefrak City 20 years ago, the implementation of the new technology that has transformed and simplified how bureaus work, and the implementation of new policies that brought this agency into the 21st century.

Moving into Lefrak was a real challenge for DEP. In accommodating thousands of employees from different DEP locations around the City into the new Queens headquarters in 1991, the agency needed the help of employees like Peggy, who was always ready to be part of the transition process and a helping hand to make sure the new workplace was inviting for everyone. "Coming together at Lefrak gave us a sense of awareness and a sense of working together for the same goal," said Peggy.

Peggy has managed the unit since 1996. ATF, which is a Mayoral Directive unit, was responsible for

assisting with the completion of the Federal Monitor's mandates. Her responsibilities include managing a unique team of industrial hygienists, constant improvement of contract specifications and the challenge of resolving multifaceted conditions within the facilities, while managing asbestos and lead abatement contractors.

ATF is responsible for responding to complaints relating to asbestos issues throughout the many DEP facilities in the five boroughs and Westchester County. The various bureaus within DEP depend on them for solutions and guidance regarding any possible condition or situation that relates to the uncertainty of the danger of asbestos and for the safety of employees. Knowing that one of the key responsibilities is to keep employees informed and safe is a job she takes seriously. One recent example is the role ATF played in assisting with the emergency fire at the North River Wastewater Treatment Plant. She constantly stresses to her team the importance of safety first, good communication and good teamwork. Peggy diligently accepts these challenges and responsibility with the same tenacity that requires moving this agency into the new century. Peggy says her tenure here at DEP has been a challenge, "but serving in this position has been both inspiring as well as rewarding."

Peggy enjoys spending time with her husband and family. She likes outdoor activities and is a big fan of supporting educational and sporting activities, starting with her university alma maters (Alabama State University and Queens College).

StratChat ...with Alice Carey, Senior Closing Associate, BWS



100 Strategic Goals Through the Eyes of Our Employees

Initiative 26 – Purchase watershed lands that protect water quality.

THE BENEFITS: "Even though it seems expensive to purchase so much watershed land, in actuality the Land Acquisition Program allows the city to avoid filtration and saves the water customers money. I am one of 17 people who work in the Land Acquisition Program. Working together we are directly responsible for purchasing lands that protect water quality in the watershed for the drinking water supply of the City of New York. Most of us live in or near the watershed. To us, the city lands help to preserve and protect the vital water resources of the area while allowing additional recreational opportunities. Being part of the strategic plan reassures us that we will continue in this important work."

Kudos Corner

On July 29th, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies released its 2010 Peak Performance Awards for wastewater treatment plants. The awards honor plants that demonstrated high levels of regulatory compliance throughout the year. Nine DEP plants received awards: Red Hook, Oakwood Beach, Wards Island, 26th Ward, Hunts Point, Rockaway, Tallman Island, Jamaica, and Port Richmond.

(When DEP's Functions Moved to Junction... continued)

tan. Other staff had planned the move, but we were the first DEP division to move into LeFrak." Camardella's main responsibility was to ensure that there was a smooth transition to the new location. "One task was to create a punch list for anything that was not working properly, such as electricity to workstations, file cabinet placement, lights, etc. I also had to make sure that each unit and respective file cabinets in the division were clearly labeled so that the movers knew exactly where all the file boxes were going."

On the other end of the move timeframe was DEP photographer **Carl Ambrose**, who recalls relocating almost two years later. "I remember that the move was on December 7, 1992, it was Pearl Harbor Day, a Monday, when we moved into Lefrak from 44 Beaver Street. Although most of the staff left in the spring of 1991, the Photo Lab and the Quality Assurance Lab remained until December 1992, when construction was completed on the sixth floor low-rise."

Among the other DEP units that relocated was the Commissioner's Office and Public Affairs that moved from the Municipal Building's 23rd and 24th floors, the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations and its labs from Astor Place, 40 Worth Street and 44 Beaver Street, the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment from Wards Island, and the Environmental Control Board (which is no longer part of DEP) from 1250 Broadway.

On July 9, 1991 Commissioner **Al Appleton** held an official opening ceremony with many elected officials and dignitaries including **Mayor David Dinkins**, Queens Borough President **Claire Schulman**, the site's owners **Sam and Richard Lefrak**, and **Stanley Hill**, the head of DC 37, New York City's largest municipal union. Dinkins' remarks that day underscored several key reasons for the move including cost-savings, improved working conditions, the efficiency of consolidating multiple offices into one area, and the positive contribution of 2,700 employees "patronizing local businesses and shops in the area."

The move had been planned by Commissioner **Harvey Schultz** during the previous administration under **Mayor Ed Koch**. In 1989, Schultz discussed the agency's anticipated move to a new headquarters in Lefrak City Plaza in *Environs*, a previous DEP newsletter. "The consolidation of DEP will improve our productivity and give us all a modern home under 'one roof'." Consolidating in Manhattan was deemed too costly as it was being planned. The new headquarters would take up over 500,000 square feet and occupy all the floors of the six-floor building and 14 floors of the tower building. At the time of DEP's relocation it was the only mayoral agency, besides the Fire Department, to have its central offices outside Manhattan.

Here is to another 20 years of continued success!

Word of the Week

Flocculation – Clumping of bacteria and solids and other impurities which form clusters, or "floc." This action enhances solids settling in final tanks.

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