



**Environmental
Protection**

Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Carter Strickland, Commissioner

WEEKLY

PIPELINE

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Tallman Island OpX Project



NYC procurement rules were recently amended to allow BWT plant operators to more quickly replace equipment that has reached the end of its useful life. Staff at the Tallman Island Wastewater Treatment Plant were able to quickly purchase more efficient chemical pumps that regulate the amount of Hypochlorite that is pumped into the waste stream, optimizing disinfection. With the new pumps in place, DEP was able to reduce the amount of Hypochlorite to achieve equivalent regulatory requirements. The initiative was developed by a team including **Jerry Fragias, Keith Cataldo, Mohammed Zaman** and **Carmelo Giorlandino**, during an OpX workshop held at the plant last fall.

Spotlight on Safety

Workplace Eye Wellness Month

March is Workplace Eye Wellness Month. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration requires that employees are trained, and use, appropriate eye or face protection when exposed to hazards such as flying particles and chemical gases or vapors. DEP conducts a Hazard Assessment to determine the appropriate eyewear required for each specific job task. For

instance, if you are using a power tool to cut wood and there are flying particles, DEP requires that you use either protective glasses or goggles.

For more information visit [DEP's Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Policy](#) or the National Safety Council's recommendations for [Protecting Your Eyes from Injury](#).

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. 🙌

Commissioner's Corner



DEP is encouraging community groups, non-profits, and property owners to apply for \$6 million in new funding that is available for green projects through the 2014 Green Infrastructure Grant Program. Since 2010, we have engaged in a city-wide effort to soften the impervious urban landscape in an effort to absorb rainwater that would otherwise drain into the combined sewer system and contribute to combined sewer overflows into local waterways. During the first three years of the Green Infrastructure Grant Program, DEP committed more than \$11 million to fund 29 different projects, which was matched by \$5.6 million in private funds. In total, the projects will prevent an estimated 13 million gallons of stormwater from entering the combined sewer system each year.

In our efforts to continuously improve this program, this year we're accepting applications in both the spring and the fall. We are also providing applicants with the opportunity to review conceptual ideas with our engineers prior to submitting their application, which should increase the quality and creativity of submissions. Our Green Infrastructure team will also host three workshops to explain the eligibility requirements and guide users through the online application. A fourth technical workshop will be held at DEP headquarters in April to provide support in computing the stormwater calculations. We'll explain that grant funding is provided for the design and construction of projects that will reduce or manage a minimum of one inch of stormwater in combined sewer areas, and that we will give preference to projects located in priority watersheds, are cost-effective, provide matching funds or other contributions, and

include ancillary environmental and community benefits such as increased shade, decreased energy use for cooling buildings, increased awareness about stormwater management, and green jobs development.

This effort to encourage private-public partnerships has been mutually beneficial, allowing DEP to retrofit private properties that we wouldn't reach in our regulatory process for new development or redevelopment, while improving those properties. That's why property owners have been willing to pitch in and fund this small but important part of our wastewater infrastructure. Notable projects that were funded during the first three years of the Grant Program and have completed construction include a 43,400 square foot green roof at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, one of the nation's first blue/green roof combinations at The Osborne Association in the Bronx, a green roof at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House in Manhattan, permeable pavers and rain gardens at Queens College, a New York Restoration Project community garden in Brooklyn's Gowanus neighborhood, and a green roof at Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School in Brooklyn. Pictures of completed projects are available on [flickr](#).

I would like to thank **Angela Licata, Magdi Farag, Margot Walker, Tetyana Klymenko, Raymond Palmares, Kathryn Prybylski, Derick Tanning, and Kevin Dahms**, from our Green Infrastructure team, **Janella Peters, David Lin, Carlos Velis**, and **Andy Lu** from our Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations, and **Alison Gilgore** from our Bureau of Legal Affairs for making our Green Infrastructure Grant Program a great success.

Focus on the Field



In order to protect public health and the environment, DEP has nearly 6,000 employees stationed across all five boroughs and the nearly two-million acre upstate watersheds. In the early 1990s Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction (BEDC) Associate Project Manager **Charles Straceski** extended DEP's reach even further when he had the opportunity to spend three years inspecting and shop testing valves and other materials for DEP where they were manufactured—in Mendoza, Argentina.

Straceski was born in New York City and grew up in Whitestone. He graduated from Flushing High School and earned a degree in engineering technology from the City University of New York. After graduation he joined a large insurance company and was certified on the national level and in numerous states to evaluate risk for various lines of insurance, including large boilers. He also spent nearly a decade in the Army National Guard where he served as a platoon sergeant.

In the early 1990s Straceski returned to New York City and joined DEP where he was assigned to oversee the machining, fabrication, welding, assembly, and testing of stainless steel metal seated riser and distribution

chamber butterfly valves in Argentina, which would eventually be used in the construction of City Water Tunnel No. 3. When he returned to the city he oversaw the work to get Stage 1 of the tunnel on line. When Stage 1 was activated in 1998, he began doing quality assurance work for items that would be used to build Stage 2 as well as some construction on the Brooklyn/Queens leg.

"We are stewards of amazing drinking water and wastewater systems that serve over 9 million people," said Straceski. "Our capital program is constructing large projects that often take many years to complete and we need to ensure that the infrastructure is built to world class specifications so that it will serve future generations of New Yorkers."

Recently, Straceski began working on the project that will replace the eight main sewage pumps at the Bowery Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant. As the work gets started he will provide construction inspection services and quality assurance for the project.

"For more than 20 years, Charlie has been involved in some of DEP's most important capital projects," said **Mohamad Hamade**, BEDC Section Chief for Quality Assurance. "His experience has been critical in ensuring that these infrastructure projects are built to BEDC standards and will stand the test of time."

Straceski still calls Whitestone home and he has a grown son and daughter and two grandsons. He is happily married and he and his wife enjoy salt water fishing in their free time. At public access points in Whitestone, they fish New York City waters for striped bass, blues, and fluke.

Save the Date!

Join us at noon on March 5, 2014 for a **Water For the Future Brown Bag** where we'll learn about the challenges of repairing a leaking section of the Delaware Aqueduct, optimizing the capacity of the Catskill Aqueduct, restoring groundwater resources, and innovative water conservation efforts.

We'll also be announcing the 'Blast' Contest winner at this Brown Bag. Please visit nyc.gov/waterforthefuture to watch a video and enter the contest **by 5 pm today**. The brown bag will be held in the Lefrak 3rd floor cafeteria and will be video-conferenced to Grahamsville, Kingston, and Valhalla. For additional information, email brownbag@dep.nyc.gov.

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

N'Ice' Catch



Some New Yorkers have been taking advantage of the colder weather this winter to do some ice fishing on DEP's East-of-Hudson reservoirs. The unseasonably warm temperatures of recent winters made it rare that there was sufficient ice on the reservoirs for fishing. However, the prolonged cold this year has led to roughly a foot or more of ice on every East of Hudson reservoir. These anglers caught some brown trout in one of the more popular spots, West Branch Reservoir. See additional photos [here](#).

NYWEA Award

DEP was presented with the 2013 Sustainability Award at the 86th Annual Meeting of the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) last month for the department's response to Hurricane Sandy, the recently released NYC Wastewater Resiliency Plan, and other green initiatives. **Commissioner Strickland** also received the 2013 NYWEA Water Hero award for his contributions to the industry.



Promoting Watershed Tourism



Last week, DEP partnered with officials from Delaware, Greene, Sullivan, and Ulster counties to promote tourism in and around the Catskill-Delaware Watershed at the New York Times Travel Show in Manhattan. The counties have incorporated boating on City reservoirs and outdoor activities on water supply lands into their tourism marketing plans. Pictured above in the top row (l-r) are **Adam Bosch** from DEP, **Herb Clark** from the Sullivan County Visitors Association, **Melanie Klausner** from I LOVE NY, and **Jim Thomson** from Delaware County Tourism. Bottom row (l-r) are **Lisa Berger** from Ulster County Tourism and **Nancy Petramale** from Greene County Tourism.