

Water Supply's Journey a Clear One



"We do it millions of times a day and don't give it a second thought. We turn on the faucet, and out it comes: the water we drink, cook and wash with, the water we need to survive. One billion gallons delivered to the five boroughs every day." Watch NY1's Roger Clark take a [journey through our water supply system](#)

Spotlight on Safety

National Work Zone Awareness Week



This week, traffic controls in work zones are in the national spotlight. In this edition of DEP's Spotlight on Safety we would like to reinforce the importance of exercising caution in and around traffic work zones. Not paying attention to safety instructions and speeding near work zones are costly mistakes that can include fines, jail time, and unfortunately

sometimes a life. DEP workers should be alert and pay attention to all safety instructions while driving near a work zone. Equal concern must be taken when DEP employees create a work zone setup and must follow the procedures listed in DEP's [Traffic Work Zone Safety Policy](#).

The key to a proper traffic work zone setup is effective traffic control which includes the following:

- Getting the driver's attention
- Warning the driver about the work-site
- Slowing the driver down
- Guiding the driver around and/or through the work zone
- Returning the driver to normal traffic flow

For more information visit [National Work Zone Awareness Week](#).

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

As DEP employees continue the complex work of repairing leaks in the Delaware Aqueduct, I was happy to join many of them last week to mark the beginning of bedrock excavation at Shaft 6B in Dutchess County. I had the distinct honor of hitting the detonator for the ceremonial blast, which set off 667 pounds of explosives roughly 120 feet below the ground. Each blast allows our work crews to excavate another 10 feet of bedrock, and they will keep going at Shaft 6B until they reach a depth of 700 feet.

The shaft I visited in Wappinger, N.Y. is a key component of the Delaware Aqueduct Bypass Tunnel, a \$1 billion project that will build a 2.5-mile-long tunnel roughly 600 feet below the Hudson River. When it is finished in 2021, the bypass tunnel will convey water around the largest leak in the Delaware Aqueduct, and it will allow DEP to take the leaking section out of service. Toward the end of the project, workers will also enter the aqueduct in Ulster County to seal a smaller set of leaks with grout.

As many of you know, this critical project will allow DEP to eliminate leaks in the Delaware Aqueduct that have been monitored since the 1990s. Those leaks are releasing roughly 15 to 35 million gallons every day. And because the Delaware Aqueduct conveys about 60 percent of New York City's high-quality drinking water from reservoirs in the Catskills, it is among our top priorities to see it fixed.

Construction work began in earnest last year. To build the bypass tunnel, DEP is first building two vertical shafts that will provide workers with access deep below the surface. Along with the 700-foot-deep shaft in Wappinger, workers are also building a 900-foot-deep shaft in the Orange County town of Newburgh.

To get this project started, DEP has forged strong relationships with the elected leaders of several upstate communities. They have moved quickly and responsibly to ensure we have the approvals necessary for construction. On Friday, I was joined by Dutchess County Executive **Marcus Molinaro**, Town of Wappinger Supervisor **Barbara Gutzler**, State Sen. **Terry Gipson**, State Assemblyman **Kieran Michael Lalor**, and Town of Newburgh Supervisor **Gil Piaquadio**. All have pledged their support to help us complete this crucial infrastructure project, which will create as many as 200 jobs in the Hudson Valley.

I'd like to thank **Adam Bosch**, **Sean McAndrew**, **Paul Rush** and **George Schmitt** for making this event happen. And I would especially like to thank the DEP employees and contractors who will construct the Delaware Aqueduct Bypass Tunnel over the next seven years. We are proud of their work, which is being done according to the highest standards of safety and engineering.



Focus on the Field



Jeffrey Ta, a Civil Engineering Intern, is learning the ropes of being a DEP engineer from his more experienced colleagues and earning increasing levels of responsibility as he goes. Ta was born in New York City and grew up on the lower east side of Manhattan. He graduated from La Salle Academy and earned a bachelor's of science degree in civil engineering from Manhattan College. He joined DEP in 2012 and, as part of the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations (BWSO), has worked on both emergency projects and capital upgrades.

One project Ta worked on was the repair of a 14-inch water main that runs under the East River near 111th street in Manhattan. The main is buried 21 feet beneath the river bed and due to murky water conditions and limited visibility, scuba divers excavated and repaired the main primarily by touch, communicating by radio with crews at the surface. The repair required specialized power tools designed to work underwater, turbidity curtains to help contain debris and avoid disturbances to marine life, and special shoring to protect the divers. After a 16-foot section of main was replaced, workers pressurized the pipe and performed a final video inspection to check for leaks. The restoration and reopening of the distribution line restored service to a critical

water main that connects Manhattan to Wards and Randall's Islands, and provides water to the Wards Island Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"As a civil engineering intern, I've had the opportunity to apply everything I learned in school," said Ta. "But it didn't take me very long to realize that those theories only get you so far. Engineering experience is critical, especially with the size and complexity of DEP's infrastructure. I am very grateful to my colleagues who have been willing to share their knowledge with me and help me become a better engineer."

More recently, Ta and his BWSO colleagues **Tom Delaney** and **Katie Mockler** were dispatched to the site of the Harlem building explosion. As the investigation into what caused the explosion continues, the group served as DEP's "eyes and ears" on the ground. For nearly two weeks the group closely monitored and recorded the excavation of the utilities near the site.

"Monitoring activities at the site and ensuring the integrity of DEP's infrastructure during the excavation was critical," said **Michael Sullivan**, BWSO's Chief of Engineering and Construction. "Jeffrey and his colleagues worked through the weekends to observe the process, record everything that took place and keep supervisors informed."

Ta is especially grateful for the mentorship of Supervising Resident Engineers **Saurin Parikh** and **Fathi Husein**, Deputy Chief of Construction **Daniel Lefkowitz** and Associate Project Manager **Angelo Lorenzo**. As of this week, for the first time, Ta is the Resident Engineer on a multi-year project that will install new sewers as well as trunk and distribution water mains in the area of west 125th Street in Manhattan.



A Light at the End of the Tunnel



Construction continues at Delaware Aqueduct Shaft 4 in Ulster County, where DEP is working to connect the Delaware and Catskill aqueducts for the first time. Construction crews have already cored seven holes into the side of the Catskill Aqueduct, where they will install pipes in the coming months to make the connection. This will eventually allow DEP to move as much as 365 million gallons a day from the Delaware System into the Catskill Aqueduct.

Somerville Infrastructure Upgrade



Last week, DEP announced the completion of a \$45 million infrastructure upgrade project in the Somerville neighborhood on the Rockaways. Prior to this project, the area was not equipped with catch basins and storm sewers and the streets often flooded during heavy rain storms. As part of the upgrade, nearly two miles of storm sewers and 107 catch basins were installed to help drain precipitation from the roadways. In addition, the project installed more than two miles of water mains and more than a mile of sanitary sewers, reconstructed the roadways, built new sidewalks, and added more than 100 street lights, 31 traffic signals and nearly 300 street trees. To see before and after photos click [here](#).

Work Zone Awareness Week



Commissioner Lloyd was joined today by Construction Laborers, **Anthony Amabile** and **Darnale Reynolds**, and Brooklyn Borough Manager **Thomas Marrama**, at an event to kick off National Work Zone Awareness Week. Dozens of workers from DEP, DOT, Con Edison, and National Grid gathered in Brooklyn as DOT unveiled its new and improved Zone Watch program. The enhanced program will include nine camera-equipped trailers designed to better document and deter reckless driving through work zones and aligns with Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero initiative to make streets safer for everyone. To see more photos click [here](#).

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