

From: [Holloway\\_Cas](#)  
Subject: Weekly Pipeline - Extra Edition - Employees of the Month for September 2010  
Date: Friday, October 29, 2010 5:35:59 PM

---



Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor  
Cas Holloway, Commissioner

# WEEKLY PIPELINE EXTRA

October 29, 2010 Volume 1 • Issue 43A



## DEP Employees of the Month for September 2010

**T**he 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 daily promise requires dedication and hard work of the nearly 6,000 employees of 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 that they have set an example for others. The form is available on Pipeline, and you'll need to submit it by the tenth day following the end of the month. For more information, email Herb Roth at [hroth@dep.nyc.gov](mailto: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 29, with Commissioner Holloway, 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.



### EDC & Sustainability - **Margot Walker**

Margot began her career with DEP in August 2008, working on green infrastructure research. Recently, she served as project manager for the design and construction of the Green/Blue Roof Comparative Pilot Study at P.S. 118 in St. Albans, Queens where Mayor Bloomberg announced the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan. Margot facilitated the design approval process with other agencies for both the blue and green roof components of the pilot, and identified appropriate vendors for all materials used. She was also on site to oversee every aspect of the eight week construction and has provided technical information about the pilot project to different visitors to the site since the project's completion. In addition, Margot has managed several environmental reviews related to stormwater conveyance and drainage, including the construction of new outfalls in the Rockaways.

As is clear from her work on the Green/Blue Roof Pilot, she has the ability to understand both the technical details of a project and how each project is connected to DEP's overall mission and goals.



### WT - **Robert Grandner**

Robert began his DEP career in November 1986 and is currently assigned to the Wards Island dewatering facility. As a Stationary Engineer-Electric, Robert and his team encountered several conditions this summer that made for a difficult season. First, it was a very warm summer, so microbes were very productive and produced a large amount of sludge. Second, the New York Organic Fertilizer Company's contract ended, complicating system-wide logistics. And third, a Job Order Contractor was replacing a very large conveyor belt that had reached the end of its useful life at the plant. Conditions could have worsened when a second conveyor belt malfunctioned in late August, which threatened to grind cake production to a halt. Robert and his crew made a series of complex repairs to the faulty conveyor, which allowed the biosolids to continue flowing.



#### **WS - Ronald Bogart**

Ronald began his DEP career in March 2006. Currently, he serves as a Senior Compliance Advisor in Water Supply helping to ensure that the Operations Directorate complies with rules, regulations, and procedures of DEP and Federal, State, and local governments. He has demonstrated a strong commitment to increasing EHS awareness and compliance through education, team building, and communicating the value of compliance.

In addition, Ronald recently resolved an issue with incorrect SPDES permits invoices. These invoices from DEC were for \$54,851 each. Ronald investigated historical issuance of these permits, held several discussions with DEC personnel, worked closely with legal, and was able to put a strong case together requesting recalculation of the fees. On Sept 2, 2010, we received notice from DEC that our challenge was valid with a recalculated fee of \$568.75 each for a total savings of over \$108,000.



#### **WSO - Sarah Ralph**

Sarah began her career with DEP in November 2005 and serves as a City Planner. She spent this past summer planning, developing, and executing a highly successful Youth Conservation Program (YCP) for the Bluebelt Unit. The YCP introduced six high school students to cutting edge storm water techniques implemented by the Bluebelt Unit. This learning program taught students about pollution prevention, protecting natural habitats, plant identification, invasive species, clean-up and debris removal, and proper tool handling.

Sarah is also responsible for data collection for the proposed Mid-Island Bluebelt area, working on obtaining required permits and approvals, as well as tracking land acquisition efforts and assisting with long-term post-construction bio-habitat assessments. Currently, Sarah is assisting with the development of the Bluebelt Asset Management program that will aid Bluebelt field staff in monitoring and maintaining Bluebelt assets and coordinating outfall and Bluebelt work with DDC on our capital contracts in Queens.



#### **Administration & Support Bureaus - Sheranne Wickham**

Sheranne began her career with DEP in April 2002 and currently serves as a Research Scientist in the Division of Facilities Management and Construction (FMC). She also works on major environmental health and safety issues affecting field workers and trades people who perform maintenance and repair work at various DEP locations and sites.

Currently, Sheranne is tasked with reviewing site specific Health and Safety Plans (HASP) and Site Specific Work Safety Plans (SSWSPs). Awaiting approval of HASPs and SSWSPs can delay work on safety projects for extended periods of time. To resolve this problem, Sheranne completed the development of a custom HASP and SSWSP form which will be used by FMC contractors. She also developed training modules for contractors to show them how to complete the new form. This form will simplify and streamline the job approval process, which will significantly reduce delays in getting safety projects started. It will also increase efficiency, help reach completion target goals, and save money on contract extensions and overruns.

### **Commissioner's Award:**



#### **WSO - Paul Vilella**

Paul has been with DEP since 1990, and now leads the new Emergency Management Group within Water & Sewer Operations. Paul has already demonstrated how critical this function is to DEP—whether in preparing for Hurricane Earl or coordinating our assistance to the Parks Department after tornados hit the city. He has worked tirelessly marshaling resources since these tornados occurred on September 16, and spent the entire following weekend, on the 25th and 26th, with staff from the Office of Emergency Management to continue managing the clean-up of the over 3,400 downed trees in Brooklyn and Queens. Immediately after the event, over 70 streets were impassable due to these downed trees. DEP provided dump trucks and operators along with chainsaw crews to cut and load tree trunks for disposal. He also provides strong leadership in the field during water main breaks and infrastructure issues that disrupt the city—helping to bring back normal operations as quickly as possible.