

Focus on the Field



DEP IS A PROUD EMPLOYER OF VETERANS WHO HAVE SERVED IN EVERY BRANCH OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES. WE CELEBRATE AND HONOR THEM AND ALL VETERANS FOR THEIR SACRIFICE AND SERVICE. THANK YOU TODAY AND EVERY DAY.

Yanique Foote grew up in East Flatbush, Brooklyn and even as a little girl, she loved to take apart and reassemble electronics and other items to understand how they work. So when she decided to pursue engineering by joining the Navy at the age of 17, it was not a surprise to anyone—especially her father, who was an engineer himself. Upon completing boot camp in 1996, Foote was immediately assigned to work as an engineer in the propulsion plant of the USS *Seattle* (AOE-3), a fast combat support ship with a crew of more than 600. In 1997, Foote was deployed for her

first Persian Gulf excursion, where she operated and maintained the ship's four high-pressure boilers. Once she completed her first tour, Foote pursued Engineering Corps Training at the US Naval Academy in Pensacola, Florida. Eight months later, in 1999, she was deployed for a second Persian Gulf excursion.

As one of 93 women on board the USS *Seattle*—and the only woman assigned to the engine room—Foote formed a lasting bond with her fellow female comrades. “We

(Continued on reverse side)

Spotlight on Safety

Spill Prevention

Oil spills can harm the environment and injure people. To help prevent the discharge of oil into U.S. navigable waters and adjoining shorelines, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that qualifying facilities prepare spill prevention, control and countermeasures (SPCC) plans. The SPCC rule requires:

- the regular testing and inspection of each oil container's integrity including whenever material repairs are made

- frequent visual inspections of the container for signs of deterioration and discharges
- identifying the type and frequency of testing and inspection for each container and the appropriate qualifications of personnel

Testing and inspection records must be retained for three years. EPA recommends that formal test records or reports be retained for the life of the container. DEP has a [Spill Prevention, Environmental Release Reporting & Investigation](#) policy in place. For additional information visit the [EPA's website](#).

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.

Special Guest Commissioner's Corner

Angela Licata, DEP's Deputy Commissioner for Sustainability, is a guest commentator this week.

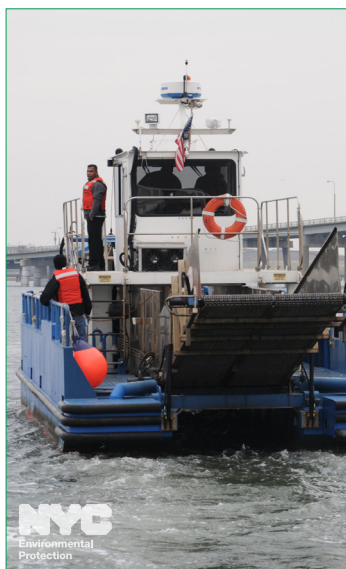
More than 70 percent of New York City is serviced by combined sewers, which carry both stormwater and wastewater to one of DEP's 14 wastewater treatment plants. The remainder of the city is serviced by separated sewer systems. These neighborhoods have sanitary sewers that take wastewater to the treatment plants, and they have storm sewers that collect stormwater from roadways and discharge directly into local water bodies. However, as stormwater flows over city playgrounds, sidewalks and streets before it enters a catch basin, it can sweep up pollutants, which can degrade harbor water quality. In order to further improve and protect the health of our waterways, effective August 1, 2015, New York City was issued its first citywide Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.



(DSNY) and the Mayor's Office of Sustainability and GreenNYC to announce a new public information campaign aimed at reducing consumer waste and street litter while also helping to improve the health and aesthetics of local waterways.

Each year, New York City generates more than 3 million tons of residential waste along with 3 million tons of commercial waste. Some of that waste is not properly discarded and ends up as litter on city streets and, when it gets washed into the sewer system, can end up polluting local waterways. The public awareness campaign will build upon the success of GreenNYC's recent “B.Y.O.” (Bring Your Own) effort and aim to address these interconnected problems by reducing the amount of consumer waste produced in the first place. Working with small businesses, the campaign will encourage New Yorkers to use reusable mugs, bottles and bags rather than their disposable counterparts, and digital ads and posters on bus shelters and DSNY trucks will help remind New Yorkers to bring reusable items when they're on the go. In addition to addressing the issue of street litter and marine debris, the campaign will help to meet the OneNYC goals of sending zero waste to landfills and reducing waste disposal by 90 percent by 2030. DEP has already committed approximately \$600,000 to the campaign.

I'd like to thank all the staff that have worked so hard on this initiative and will help to ensure its success. To read more about the [Trash Free NYC Waters](#) campaign [click here](#) and to see more photos [click here](#).



The permit requires the development of a Stormwater Management Program, which converts into a comprehensive plan to describe how the City will address stormwater discharges through Best Management Practices and other controls. These include public education initiatives and I'm happy to share with you that we have joined with the Department of Sanitation

make it a point to keep in touch and meet up every year,” says Foote. “The Navy really opened my eyes and provided me with an enduring respect for religious and cultural differences. I was able to build great friendships and acquired professional and personal skills that will serve me for the rest of my life.”

After completing two Gulf tours, Foote left the Navy in 2001. She immediately put her engineering skills to use, maintaining boilers first at a nursing home in the Bronx, and then at the Domino Sugar plant in Brooklyn. Foote began her career with the City in 2002, by maintaining boilers for NYCHA properties as a Heating Plant Technician. Three years later, she joined DEP’s Bureau of Environmental Compliance (BEC), where she served in the Enforcement Unit as an Air Pollution Inspector. In this role, she gained an array of experience helping to inspect alleged air and noise code violations that were filed through 311. These complaints can range from suspicious odors at industrial facilities to dogs that bark too loudly in an apartment complex.

“Yanique is not only a veteran of the US military—she’s also a DEP veteran,” says **Joseph Scafidi**, Principal Inspector, Enforcement. “She knows every aspect of what we do in environmental compliance. In the past year, we hired 16 new Air Pollution Inspectors and we counted on her to help with their training, which she executed flawlessly. Her knowledge is so wide-ranging that she can take on nearly any role within our unit at a moment’s notice. Her positive attitude and competence make her a huge asset to our staff. She is a pleasure to work with.”

Foote was promoted to Senior Inspector in 2012. In this role, she ensures that all mechanical equipment that has the ability to impact the noise or air of New York City is properly registered with DEP. Due to her understanding of engineering, she oversees compliance for enforcement, and is uniquely positioned to serve as a liaison between BEC’s engineering and enforcement units. She tracks all of the certificates and registrations for mechanical equipment to ensure they are up to date. When there is a discrepancy in the paperwork, Foote will personally inspect the site and work with the responsible parties to



Machinist Mate 2nd Class (Surface Warfare) Y. Foote

reconcile any differences and issue a fine if there is a violation.

“Every day, I encounter something different,” says Foote. “I am always meeting and working with interesting people and learning about new equipment. My position offers so much variety that there is never a dull moment.”

Outside of her work at DEP, Foote enjoys travelling, an activity that she learned to appreciate during her military service. She has visited nearly every country in the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, and the Persian Gulf. She plans to visit Ethiopia on her next excursion. In addition, Foote has her own recording studio, where she pursues her other passion as a production sound engineer. She records, mixes and masters all genres of music.

Ride the Catskills



Governor Andrew Cuomo recently visited NYC’s Rondout Reservoir as part of a “Ride the Catskills” motorcycle run to promote tourism in the Catskills and mid-Hudson Valley. In this photo, the governor is leading motorcyclists on a tour through Ulster and Greene Counties. [Go here](#) for more information and [here](#) for more photos.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday 24 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from First Deputy Commissioner **Steve Lawitts**, Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development **Diana Jones Ritter** and Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Joseph Acaba, **Khondoker Alam**, **Bushra Asfare**, **Nicholas Berling**, **Andrew Champlin**, **Priscilla Cole**, **Paul DaSilva**, **Geoffrey Foster**, **Marvin Gayatga**, **Sharon Lewis-Williams**, **Hang Li**, **Gelaney Matthew**, **Eugenio Oliver-Casiano**, **Joseph Shafer** and **Charles Shulman** with BWSO; **Aysha Syed** with BPS; **Dwayne Shaw** with BCS; **Tanvir Ahmed** with FDC; **Matthew Brennan** and **Shanan Smiley** with BWS; **Tiffany Lowe** with Sustainability; and **Rania Maker**, **Simona Marginean** and **Robert Mastrolembo** with BWT.