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Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Cas Holloway, Commissioner

WEEKLY PIPELINE EXTRA

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DEP Employees of the Month for June 2010

The 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 online, and you'll need to submit it by the tenth day following the end of the month. For more information, contact Herbert Roth or visit the program's website ([here](#)) .

The Employees of the Month for June, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on July 23, 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 - Callista Nazaire

Callista joined DEP in May 2003 and is responsible for reviewing the EHS component of development projects as part of DEP's overall Environmental Quality Review Process. In addition, she prepares, analyzes, and critiques Environmental Assessment Reports, Environmental Impact Statements/Reports, Phase I Site Assessment Reports, Phase II Subsurface Investigation Reports, and Remedial Closure Reports. Most recently, Callista was assigned to the Superfund response team. Callista's role is critical in defending the City's position with respect to limiting liability by identifying parties potentially responsible for the contamination of the Gowanus Canal and Newton Creek. Callista's technical expertise is proving to be a tremendous asset as the City investigates and evaluates contaminants found in these water bodies as well as identifying strategies for future remediation.



WT - Jorge Villacis

Jorge began his career with DEP in September 1989 in Wastewater Treatment's Industrial Pretreatment Program. In 2001, he was assigned to the Compliance Monitoring Section (CMS), where he is responsible for managing a number of programs such as Shoreline Survey and Sentinel Monitoring. These programs identify and characterize all outfalls, whether City-owned or private, along the City's shoreline by conducting surveillance by land and by boat. As part of this effort, the CMS identifies contaminated dry weather discharges by collecting and analyzing samples for fecal coliform and other parameters, tracking down the source and abating illegal sanitary discharges. To date, under the expert guidance and supervision of Jorge, these programs have resulted in the abatement of about 4 million gallons per day (MGD) of such illegal discharges.

Additionally, Jorge supervises a variety of other sampling programs such as influent and effluent sampling at all 14 Water Treatment Plants ensuring compliance with SPDES requirements, wastewater sampling of industrial facilities subject to the Industrial Pretreatment Program, stormwater sampling, and special project sampling. Due to his expertise and professional dedication, the NYS Department of Environmental Compliance frequently calls upon Jorge to assist with investigating potential illegal connections to storm sewers or direct discharges.



Police & Security - **Tavan Novi**

Sergeant Tavan Novi began his DEP police career in March 2002. Currently, he is the Commanding Officer of the DEP Police Academy; his many responsibilities include coordinating the numerous mandated trainings and certification renewals for the Police Division's 191-sworn members and academy recruits. Sergeant Novi also serves in the challenging role of Dive Team leader. In this capacity, he is responsible for training new divers and responding to emergencies.

Sergeant Novi sets an example for others by displaying grace under pressure while maintaining a professional attitude and a sense of humor. Sergeant Novi serves as a mentor and role model to the academy recruits as he familiarizes them with DEP's policies and the importance of remaining mission-focused in every aspect of what they will encounter as officers.



WSO - **Melissa Whitley**

Melissa, a DEP employee since 2007, provides environmental compliance assistance to Water and Sewer Operations' staff as well as ensures that the Bureau's facilities are conforming to EHS regulations and standards. An innovative and solution-oriented employee, Melissa created petroleum bulk storage inventory and spills databases upon discovering that the existing system was not effective. She developed a computer based application which performed inventory calculations automatically; wrote an accompanying SOP; and trained all of the Bureau's field employees on the newly developed system. The improved spills database allows the Bureau to track data closely identifying root causes quickly. Both of her innovations have been instrumental in analyzing causes and effects, and monitoring compliance, allowing the Bureau to quickly address serious issues.

Melissa is also responsible for spill prevention programs, universal waste, recycling, tank management, and other remedial projects.



Administration & Support Bureaus - **Wai Moy**

Wai began his career with DEP in January 1989. Since joining the Budget Office in November 2002, he has been a valued resource in dealing with implementation issues related to the Financial Management System (FMS), which is now on version 3, working as a liaison among the Budget Office, the ACCO, and DEP's Bureaus ensuring a smooth transition.

Wai also represents the Agency in resolving budgetary issues with the Comptroller, FISA, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and other entities to ensure compliance with oversight requirements and the timely completion of DEP's budgetary responsibilities and mandates. His knowledge, expertise, temperament, and integrity have served the Agency well, and Wai serves as a role model to the Budget staff and others in DEP who work with him.

Commissioner's Award:



BWT Manhattan Grit Chamber Team

Due to an unusually high amount of wastewater flow going into the Wards Island Plant this past July 7, it was necessary to activate a channel at the Manhattan Grit Chamber that was out of service. In general, when bringing a channel like this on line, plant personnel use a control panel to electronically operate influent and effluent actuators to open and close the gates. On July 7, this option wasn't available due to control problems with these actuators. The plant personnel had to manually open the effluent gate using a small hydraulic hand pump, raising the gate a fraction of an inch with every stroke. In all, it took an hour to get the gate open. Members of the crew then used a portable electric/hydraulic pump to open the influent gate and put the channel back into service. After it was opened, the crew had to support the gates using chainfalls to prevent the gates from slipping or falling and cutting off the flow through the channel. Through their diligent work, dry weather sewer overflows were minimized.

The below members of the BWT Grit Chamber Team got this channel up and running and kept it running.

- **John McCabe** – Plant Superintendent
- **John Ahern** – Deputy Plant Superintendent
- **Walter Zielinski** – Senior Sewage Treatment Worker
- **Randall Hedden** – Senior Sewage Treatment Worker
- **Robert Col** – Sewage Treatment Worker
- **Stephen Eckartz** – Sewage Treatment Worker
- **Michael Parente** – Sewage Treatment Worker