

25th Anniversary of the F.A.D.



As reported last week in the [New York Times](#):

“New Yorkers like to brag about their tap water. Not only is it safe to swill, but it has even been called the ‘champagne of drinking water.’”

Now, New York City has committed \$1 billion to protect the nation’s largest municipal water system as part of a far-reaching [115-page agreement](#) with state health officials that makes New York one of the few cities in the country that can provide nearly all of its tap water without being forced to rely on expensive filtration plants.”

Spotlight on Safety

Case Study: Chemical Release at MGPI Industries

The Chemical Safety Board (CSB) has released their final report on a chemical release that occurred at MGPI Industries on Oct. 21, 2016. The facility, located in Atchison, Kansas, produces distilled spirits and specialty wheat proteins and starches. The chemical release occurred when sulfuric acid was inadvertently unloaded from a tanker truck into a fixed sodium hypochlorite tank at the plant. This error was a result of improper labeling of the sodium hypochlorite tank and an employee being unaware that the tank was unlocked. The mixture resulted in a chemical release, sending more than 140 individuals to area hospitals, and resulted in shelter-in-place and evacuation orders for thousands of local residents.

Some key points of the CSB’s final report include the following tips for facilities:

- evaluate chemical unloading/transferring equipment and processes
- implement safeguards to reduce the likelihood of an incident
- install alarms and interlocks in the process control system that can shut down the transfer of chemicals in an emergency
- collaborate with chemical distributors to conduct a risk assessment, and develop and agree upon procedures for chemical unloading

See [DEP’s Chemical Bulk Storage Tank and Container Management Policy](#) for information on how to manage Chemical Bulk Storage tanks. To view the final report on the MGPI Industries incident, visit the [CSB 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.

Commissioner’s Corner



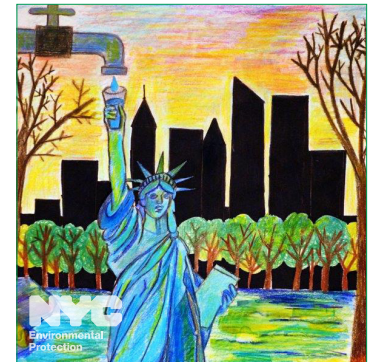
Michael DeLoach, DEP’s Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Public Affairs & Communications (BPAC), is a guest commentator this week.

I am excited to announce that entries for the 32nd annual *Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest* are now being accepted! Second through twelfth grade students attending public, independent, charter or parochial schools, and those who are home-schooled, in New York City and in the East- and West-of-Hudson watersheds are invited to create original art and compose poetry that reflects an appreciation for New York’s shared water resources.

Entries will be accepted [online](#) until March 9, 2018. Last year, about 1,800 New York City and watershed students represent-

ing 100 schools submitted either original poems or artwork about New York’s water resources. DEP’s *Water Resources Art and Poetry* program helps raise awareness about the importance of clean, high-quality drinking water, and what it takes to maintain New York City’s water supply and wastewater treatment systems.

I’d like to thank BPAC Director of Education **Kim Estes-Fradis** and her team for once again putting together this successful contest, which will certainly inspire the next generation of environmental stewards. I encourage all young New Yorkers to use their artistic abilities to learn about and express the importance of protecting our environment and water resources.



Sewage Takes Centerstage on Podcast



Bureau of Wastewater Treatment Deputy Commissioner **Pam Elardo** recently had the unique opportunity to sit down with actor Alec Baldwin on his WNYC podcast, "Here's the Thing." She discussed the city's complex wastewater treatment system during a 40-minute interview segment titled, "[Brilliant Minds of Trash and Sewage](#)." Also featured during the conversation was Ron Gonen, former Deputy Commissioner of Recycling and Sustainability for New York City's Department of Sanitation and current CEO of a major investment fund looking for the next big idea in recycling.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 12 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from **Commissioner Vincent Sapienza**, Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources and Administration **Zoe Ann Campbell**, and HR Specialist **Grace Franco**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Nihar R. Samal with BEDC; **Richard Duffelmeyer** and **Joshua M. Miller** with BWS; **Cate M. Blachly** and **Shomari Johnson** (not pictured) with BWSO; **Patrick R. Mulgrew** with BWT; **Andrew Jacobllis** with CFO/FMC; **Waqar Iqbal** and **Varsha Joy** with EDC/IHD; **Romulo N. De Vergara** with FDC/Engineering Audit; and **Scott Davidow** and **Susanne E. DesRoches** with Sustainability.

New Law to Limit Construction Noise



Mayor **Bill de Blasio** last Wednesday signed legislation into law, authored by Council Member **Ben Kallos** in collaboration with DEP, aimed at [reducing overnight and weekend construction noise](#), and making New York City more livable. Intro. 1653-B allows inspectors to take noise readings from the roadway or sidewalk, rather than requiring that the reading be taken from inside of a complainant's apartment, empowers inspectors to shut down equipment that is too loud, and calls for new rules for responding when the noise is most likely to happen again. In addition, construction companies will be required to electronically file noise mitigation plans, which will make it easier for inspectors and the public to review online.

Training for Ice Rescues



DEP police officers conducted ice rescue training during recent simulation exercises held at the Ashokan Reservoir East Basin in upstate Ulster County. The DEP Police protect 19 reservoirs, three controlled lakes, more than 180,000 acres of watershed land, roughly 300 miles of aqueducts, 29 water supply dams, 57 bridges, seven wastewater treatment plants, and more than 280 shafts, chambers, laboratories, and other facilities that help the water system function. These facilities and lands stretch across parts of eight counties and roughly 2,000 square miles of watershed.

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