

What a Cool Job!



DEP's water quality staff sample the frozen Kensico Reservoir using an air boat. Water scientists are trained to work safely in icy conditions. Each year, DEP conducts more than 500,000 tests to ensure New Yorkers receive high quality, safe drinking water.

Spotlight on Safety

Visiting a Site at DEP?

Scheduled for a visit to a DEP facility for an inspection, training or meeting? Did you know that there are safety guidelines for visiting DEP field sites?

The safety guidelines for visitors cover:

- **Pre-visit preparations** such as communicating with your site contact to learn about site specific safety protocols and required personal protective equipment (PPE).
- **General safety precautions** such as not remaining in any environment you believe is unsafe and being mindful of

warning signs and barricade tapes indicating potential hazards.

- **Activities prohibited unless you have special training** such as entering a confined space or handling electric panels.
- **Prohibited activities** such as approaching unguarded rotating equipment and climbing ladders and scaffolding.

Before you visit any site, please consult [Safety Guidelines for DEP Visitors to DEP Field Sites](#).

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



Last Thursday, I had the privilege of visiting DEP's Eastview Police Precinct to attend a ceremony celebrating the promotion of two of our environmental police officers. **Sgt. Jose Rivera** joined the DEP police in July 2002, and began his career on patrol out of the Hillview Precinct. In February 2007 he was selected for and transferred to the Special Operations Division, Emergency Service Unit and he was promoted to detective specialist in April 2013. **Sgt. Yolanda Moore** joined the DEP police in July 2002, and began her career on patrol out of the Hillview Precinct. In August 2004 she was selected for a special assignment at NYPD Applicant Processing. In February 2006 she returned to the Hillview Precinct where she has remained active on patrol.

The DEP Police Division was established more than 100 years ago and is charged with protecting the city's water supply system, which includes more than 2,000 square miles of watershed land spread over nine counties, hundreds of miles of tunnels and aqueducts, 7 upstate wastewater treatment plants, laboratories, and chlorination facilities. Since 2002, DEP has roughly doubled the size of its police division to its current 207 members, including 30 new members who went through the DEP Police Academy in 2013. DEP Police patrol the watershed by foot, bicycle, all-terrain vehicle, motorcycle, boat, helicopter and aircraft. They also

maintain specially trained units, including a Detective Bureau, Emergency Service Unit, Canine Unit, and Aviation Unit. I want to congratulate our two newest Sergeants and thank all of our officers for the important work they do protecting the City's water supply.

This is my last edition of Commissioner's Corner. DEP's incoming Commissioner, **Emily Lloyd**, begins next week and I am confident that she will build upon all the great things we accomplished over the last several years. In my first Commissioner's Corner in 2011, I wrote that I was excited to take the job because of the quality of the people who make up this organization. Since then, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with thousands of you, and at every turn I have been impressed by your commitment to serving our 9 million customers. After two strategic planning initiatives, and with input from every level of the organization, DEP is on course to achieve our goal of being the safest, most efficient, cost-effective, and transparent water utility in the nation. I want to thank all of you, especially those of you who have shared kind words over the last few weeks. It has been an honor to be a part of this great organization.

Sincerely, Carter

Carter N. Strickland, Jr.

Focus on the Field



New York City's local waterways are cleaner and healthier than they have been in more than a century but there is more work to do in order to open up as much of the waterfront as possible for recreation and development. DEP's Green Infrastructure Plan is a central component of the long-term strategy to manage the stormwater that falls on the city's impervious surfaces and causes combined sewer overflows into local waterways. Originally released in 2011, the program has been building up steam and construction will ramp up substantially this year as thousands of bioswales and green streets will be built around the city. Bureau of Sustainability Project Engineer **Derick Toning** is managing some of the large area-wide contracts and tracking the progress of each proposed installation.

Toning was born in the midwest, grew up in the south, and earned a degree in civil engineering from the University of Kentucky. After graduation, he spent three years working for a private consulting firm in Wellington, New Zealand where he focused on drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater infrastructure projects. The 2011 Christchurch earthquake destroyed much of the town's infrastructure and he contributed to some of the rebuilding projects.

When he returned to the U.S. in 2012 Toning joined DEP's Office of Green Infrastructure. Working with partner agencies, he is managing the installation

of hundreds of right-of-way bioswales and stormwater green streets in the vicinity of the Bronx River, Flushing Bay, the Hutchinson River, and Newtown Creek. He is also managing the development of an asset management and tracking data base for all green infrastructure installations. This will track and report on every site—from proposal to walk-through and approval, to construction, and future maintenance. Consultants will update each of their projects and partner agencies will also be able to view the information. This will help the department keep communities and regulatory agencies informed.

"It's such an exciting time to be working on green infrastructure projects in New York City," said Toning. "I'm grateful to be part of the talented team that is making New York a world leader in sustainability."

"Derick excels as both a design and field engineer and he is an important member of DEP's Green Infrastructure team," said **Magdi Farag**, Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Green Infrastructure.

Toning resides in Williamsburg and in his free time enjoys a number of outdoor pursuits including skiing, mountaineering, and rafting. As March Madness begins he will be rooting on his alma mater Kentucky Wildcats and also looks forward to the start of the new baseball season.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, seven new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development **Diana Jones Ritter** and Director of Program Development and Training **Doreen Johann**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

William Benn, **Kelvin Perez-Macario**, and **Wendy Tam** with BWSO; **Marcos A. Entenza** and **Mariam Singh** with BWT; **Jason Coppola** with BWS; and **Don Scoma** with ACCO.

Did You Know...

City employees are eligible for numerous consumer discounts, including Microsoft Office 2013 for use at home for just \$9.95? For more information on this and other discounts visit [CityShare](#).

DEP employees are invited to support Water for People by riding in the Five Boro Bike Tour on May 4? Spots on the team are very limited and requests will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information [click here](#).

DEP Spring Blood Drive

One of every three people will need a life-saving blood transfusion at some point during their lifetime and a continuous supply is necessary because blood is perishable. Please help by donating at the below locations and times:

Lefrak Headquarters: 3rd Floor Cafeteria, 3/12 and 3/13, 7:45 am to 1:30 pm; **Kensico/Highland/Sutton Park Region:** Sutton Park - 2nd Floor, 3/13, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm.

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

NYC Environmental Protection **Employee Store**

WE'RE OPEN!

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