

Pepacton Fishing Day



Roughly 60 people gathered on the shores of Pepacton Reservoir this past weekend for Family Fishing Day. The event was co-sponsored by DEP and State Department of Environmental Conservation. Free bait and tackle was provided to youngsters who did not have their own, and fishing experts were there to teach beginners how to cast, reel, and catch fish. Along with a similar event at Lake Gleneida, DEP has already attracted roughly 250 people to its fishing outreach programs in the watershed this year. A third family fishing day is planned for Sept. 19 at Ashokan Reservoir. DEP employees and their families are encouraged to participate. Stay tuned for more information. To see photos from last weekend's event, [click here](#).

Spotlight on Safety

Personal Protective Equipment

In keeping with National Safety Month's theme of "What I Live For", it is important to know everything you can do to protect yourself on the job. Often this means simply wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment, commonly referred to as "PPE".

PPE is equipment worn to minimize exposure to workplace injuries and illnesses. These injuries and illnesses may result from contact with chemical, physical, electrical, mechanical, or other workplace hazards. Types of PPE can include a variety of devices and garments such as face shields, safety glasses, hard hats, safety shoes, goggles, coveralls, gloves, vests, earplugs, and respirators.

To effectively use PPE:

- Be aware of when PPE is necessary for a job
- Know what type of PPE is needed
- Understand the limitations of PPE in protecting you from injury
- Check for holes or tears and gaps between PPE and the body
- Maintain PPE properly

Remember, PPE is only effective when it is used properly, and if you feel there is an issue with the fit or comfort of the PPE, notify your supervisor. For more information, visit DEP's [Personal Protective Equipment Policy](#).

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



Repairing the leaking Delaware Aqueduct, which supplies nearly half of New York City's daily drinking water, is a critical project necessary to ensure the long term reliability and resiliency of our water supply network. DEP is in the process of constructing two shafts on either side of the Hudson River that will enable us to begin the most complex component of the project—the construction of a bypass tunnel around the leaking section of the Aqueduct.

Last week, DEP marked a major milestone by registering the \$706 million contract for the tunnel bypass. Construction is already underway, but the most critical phase will be in 2022, when DEP will have to shut down the existing aqueduct to connect the bypass tunnel. Engineers originally anticipated that this interconnection phase would take up to a year, during which time DEP would need to provide water from alternative sources. However, thanks to innovative engineering, current projections show that the Delaware Aqueduct will only need to be shut down for a few months.

This latest development has prompted DEP to re-evaluate the water supply alternatives that were meant to supplement the temporary loss of water from the Delaware Aqueduct. Under the earlier scenario, DEP planned a multi-pronged approach that included conservation, use of water from the Croton system, optimization of the Catskill

Aqueduct, and re-activation of the former Jamaica Water Supply groundwater wells in Queens. These wells, located in Southeast Queens, have been largely unused since 1996 when the City acquired the Jamaica Water Supply and have the potential to provide approximately 33 million gallons of water per day. However, DEP would have to build expensive treatment facilities to remove impurities from the groundwater supply.

Given the success of recent conservations efforts, the activation of the Croton Filtration Plant, and our recent projections for a much shorter Delaware Aqueduct shutdown, DEP has determined that reactivation of the groundwater wells is not required. The department still plans to pursue a permit renewal from the State for use of our groundwater system in 2017, as it is critical that we maintain access to this water supply in the event of a surface water drought, unplanned outage of our infrastructure, or a similar emergency. As part of the permit application, we will also complete a study to assess whether reactivating the wells will have significant effects on the aquifers that supply water to Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk counties.

If you are interested in more information on DEP's long-term plans to ensure reliable drinking water for our 9.4 million customers, [click here](#).

Saving Water at Public Schools



Earlier today, DEP announced that more than 10,000 new, high-efficiency bathroom fixtures have been installed at 129 public school buildings throughout the five boroughs reducing water consumption at each of the buildings by approximately 70 percent and, saving more than one million gallons of water each school day. Work will continue on additional schools with the goal of reaching 500 buildings, and roughly 40,000 bathroom fixtures by 2019, resulting in an estimated 4 million gallons of water conserved each school day. DEP is funding the program as part of a larger effort to reduce citywide water consumption by five percent prior to the anticipated shutdown and repair of the Delaware Aqueduct, which conveys roughly half of the city's drinking water, in 2022. In addition to ensuring that DEP's 9.4 million customers in New York City and upstate communities have an adequate supply of healthy drinking water during the temporary shutdown of the Aqueduct, the five percent reduction in consumption will reduce the amount of electricity, chemicals, and other costs associated with operating the water system. It will also cut carbon emissions from the wastewater treatment process by more than 15,500 metric tons per year, the equivalent of removing 3,300 cars from the road or planting more than 400,000 trees and letting them grow for ten years.

DEP is currently excavating two 800 foot deep shafts that will be used to construct a 2.5-mile bypass tunnel around a portion of the Delaware Aqueduct that is leaking in Roseton, in Orange County. The project will also include repair work to fix leaks in Wawarsing, in

Ulster County, from the inside of the existing tunnel. The bypass tunnel will run east from the Town of Newburgh in Orange County, under the Hudson River, to the Town of Wappinger in Dutchess County. In order to facilitate these repairs to the Aqueduct, the tunnel must be temporarily shut down between 2022 and 2023. In preparation for the shutdown, DEP has developed a combination of conservation programs and supplemental supplies that will ensure an uninterrupted supply of water.

As part of the larger water conservation initiative, DEP identified opportunities to conserve water at City-owned properties and has already partnered with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to install activation buttons on spray showers at 400 playgrounds around the city that will save 1.5 million gallons of water a day.

To encourage water conservation in private properties, we also launched a voucher-based program to replace roughly 800,000 outdated residential toilets with high efficiency models. The new toilet rebate program will build on the success of a similar rebate program that ran from 1994 to 1997 and replaced 1.3 million toilets and reduced citywide water consumption by 90 million gallons per day. DEP's water conservation programs have helped reduce water use in the city from more than 1.5 billion gallons a day in 1980 to roughly 1 billion gallons a day at present, while the city's population grew from just over 7.1 million to 8.5 million in the same period.

Additional photos are available on [DEP's Flickr Page](#).

New Engineers Get Tips from Alumni



The Bureau of Water Supply recently hosted a group of retired DEP engineers for a tour of the watershed and water supply facilities. The DEP alumni visited several locations, new and old, throughout the east-of-Hudson watershed, including the Croton Falls Pumping Station, Shaft 18, and the Mahopac Wastewater Treatment Plant. They also received briefings on new projects, such as the Delaware Aqueduct Bypass Tunnel, that will improve the system. The former engineers were joined this year by 11 recently hired engineers from BWS, who gained valuable insight from the retiree's institutional knowledge of the vast water supply system, including some tips on operations and emergency response.

Welcome Aboard!



We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Chiching Teng, with BCS; **Charles W. Fisher**, with BEDC; **Annette Dunlap**, **Yvonne Leid**, **Maegan M. Montalvo**, **Christopher Montenegro**, **Christina Samuda**, **Emma Williams** and **Tania Ventura** with BEDC/BIB; **Thomas G. Byrne**, **Michael L. D'Onghia**, **Emmet M. Owens** and **Katherine Yu** with BWS; **Stanley Colangelo**, **Winston Lester**, **William G. Peralta Jr.**, **Dexter B. Powell II**, **John A. Romero**, **Anthony J. Wright** with BWSO; **Vernanda Carbon**, **Mohammed H. Khan**, with BWT; and **Qihua Lu**, with Sustainability.

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