



COMMISSIONER'S NEW YEAR'S DAY TOUR

Commissioner Cas Holloway visited several DEP sites on New Year's Day to greet and thank workers. Among them was Shaft 18 in Mt. Pleasant. The Commissioner toured the facility and thanked DEP employees who help keep the water flowing. Left to right are **Frank Tempestilli**, **Mark Donecker**, **Commissioner Cas Holloway**, **Antonio Chevalier**, **Chief of Staff Lynn Cole**, and **Joe Spaguolo**. For more photos of the tour visit [Pipeline](#). (b)

Spotlight on Safety

December 31, 2009 Marked the End of Federal Probation

On December 31, 2009, DEP marked the end of eight years of Federal probation and oversight of its operations by a Court appointed Federal monitor. The release from probation recognizes both the human and financial investments made by the Agency to ensure that we provide a safe and healthy work environment for all DEP staff. **Mayor Bloomberg** made the announcement while visiting DEP employees working the Christmas Day shift at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"In recognition of eight years of hard work improving protection of the City's water quality and our workplace safety practices, Federal officials are ending court oversight of DEP," said **Mayor Bloomberg**. "New Yorkers can be confident we continue to enjoy the best drinking water in the country.... I want to thank our leadership team at the department, the employees here today who are working to protect our water quality on Christmas Day, and the 6,000 men and women of DEP."

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 EH&S liaison how they can help. If you've still got questions, you can call the EH&S 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. (b)
HELP IS ON THE WAY.

Commissioner's Corner



Fellow DEP employees:

It's great to be here. On Friday, January 1, **Mayor Bloomberg** took the oath of office for a third term, and called these next four years a "special opportunity." He asked us to "take a fresh look at everything," and challenged us to develop new ways to serve the 9 million people who rely on the water and wastewater treatment that you provide every day.

After the swearing-in, I visited nine DEP facilities in all five boroughs and Westchester County to learn more about the incredible work that you do, and thank the men and women working on New Year's Day. Wards Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Superintendent **John McCabe** and members of his team showed me blowers working just as hard in 2010 as they did when they were installed in 1937 (and the turtles who are part of the plant's welcoming committee); The crew at 38th Street in Manhattan explained the challenges they face find-

ing and stopping water and sewer leaks on a daily basis; Watershed Maintainers Supervisor **Stephane Riviere** walked me through the chlorination process at Hillview reservoir; and Plant Superintendent **Ravi Basant** and members of his team explained EH&S procedures and parts of the \$300 million in capital work at Tallman Island WWTP. Deputy Commissioners **Jimmy Roberts** and **Vinny Sapienza** joined me with senior members of their management teams, as did Business Representative Local 3, **Sean Fitzpatrick**, and President, Local 1320, **Jim Tucciarelli**.

I received a security briefing from Deputy Commissioner **Kevin McBride**, Lieutenant **William Flynn** and Sergeant **Frank Lynch** at the Sixth Precinct in Eastview; learned about the challenges of getting water to different elevations from Stationary Engineer Electric **Phil Saglimbene** at the Douglaston Pumping Station in Queens; and was briefed on the complexities of supplying electricity at the Port Richmond WWTP from Stationary Engineer Electric **Mark Kelly**. My opening-day tour ended just short of midnight at the Red Hook WWTP, where Stationary Engineer Electric **Anthony Ruggerio** explained how ocean dumping finally came to an end

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Focus on the Field



Jim Pynn is the Plant Superintendent for the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment plant in the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn. Jim, a lifelong Brooklynite, has worked at DEP for nearly 36 years. He enjoys the daily challenge of working at a venue that taps into his high energy and his ability to multi-task. There is no such thing as a routine day. "In addition to regular work with the staff here at

the plant," Jim said, "my day can begin with a meeting with construction contractors, engineers and architects, followed by a visit from a local school and end with a meeting with members of the community. I really enjoy the variety."

Most New Yorkers are not aware that there are 14 treatment plants in New York City operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. So Jim is very excited about the plant's role in educating the public about DEP's work. The Newtown Creek plant is home to some of the agency's most unique venues including the Nature Walk, which provides the community access to the waterfront, the digester "eggs, and the soon to open Visitor Center.

DEP: Then & Now

Then:



Kensico Reservoir

Completed in 1915 at a cost of \$7.9 million, the massive Kensico Dam (pictured left) necessitated its own granite quarry and the labor of 80 stone cutters to shape the 1 to 16 ton blocks that form the dam's face. Photo taken 1/4/1910.

Now:



Today the major function of the Kensico Reservoir is to receive water from all six Catskill and Delaware system reservoirs, and to make those waters available for the fluctuating daily demands of New York City water users. Photo taken 8/28/08

Milestones

Welcome to the newly appointed DEP Police Chief, **Peter Fusco**. Chief **Fusco**, a veteran of the NYPD, will be working out of the Eastview Precinct.

Congratulations to **Aimee** and **Arne Fareth** (BEDC) on the birth of their son **Emmett Raine Fareth**, 12/21/09 at 6:44 pm. **Emmett** joins his brothers **Andrew**, **Connor**, and **Gabriel**.

(Commissioner's Corner, Continued)

when Red Hook went online in 1987 (and pointed out how the wood-paneling finish adds a home-like feel to the control room). The expertise and dedication of our workforce was evident at every stop; I want to extend a special thank you to everyone who took the time to meet and talk with me on the tour, and I've set a personal goal to visit each of DEP's 1800+ facilities at least once during the next four years.

Thanks to your tremendous efforts, 2010 is already off to a great start. At 11:59 PM on December 31, 2009, federal probation and agency oversight by a federal Monitor came to an end after eight years (6). **Mayor Bloomberg** visited the Newtown Creek WWTP on Christmas Day to celebrate this remarkable achievement, and got a full tour of the plant from Deputy Commissioner **Vinny Sapienza** and Plant Superintendent **Jim Pynn**—including a visit to the top of the digester eggs. (6)

This is just the beginning of what we'll achieve over the next four years with the Mayor's support. We'll continue to improve environmental health and safety throughout the agency, and we'll make the investments necessary to sustain the greatest water system in the world for the next century and beyond.

But I'll need your help to tackle these and the many other tough challenges we face. Our infrastructure needs are enormous,

and resources are limited; in this economic environment, we'll need to prioritize carefully and make difficult choices. Over the next six weeks, I'll be visiting facilities and working with managers throughout the agency to prioritize and address these challenges. Together we'll create a strategic plan to achieve **Mayor Bloomberg's** goals for the water system and New York City's air and water, including PlaNYC, and the bold sustainability agenda that has become a model for the country and the world.

This is the first of a weekly newsletter that I'll be sending every Tuesday. The newsletter will include updates on current news, agency accomplishments, and personal milestones. It will feature a weekly spotlight on safety, and attempt to answer questions that I get from you. To that end, please reach out to me directly at askcas@dep.nyc.gov (6) or at 718 595 6595 with questions or comments about the agency that I'll do my best to address. Each week we'll publish at least one question and answer in the newsletter, and every question will be answered, whether or not it's published, and you will only be identified by name with your permission.

I look forward to working with all of you to build on DEP's world-class reputation, and to support you in any way I can to carry out our vital mission.

All the best,



Cas Holloway

We welcome your feedback! To submit a question for "You Asked...", an announcement or if you have a suggestion, email us at: newsletter@dep.nyc.gov. (6)