

Repairing the Delaware Aqueduct



Deputy Commissioner **Paul Rush**, Bureau of Water Supply, and **Sean McAndrew**, Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction, are featured in a [Times Herald-Record](#) news article discussing the complex and challenging repair of the Delaware Aqueduct. DEP is constructing a 2.5-mile-long bypass tunnel approximately 600 feet below ground, around a leaking portion of the aqueduct. This important conduit provides 50 percent of New York City's high-quality drinking water every day from reservoirs in the Catskill Mountains.

Spotlight on Safety

Workplace Eye Wellness Month

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), each day about 2,000 U.S. workers sustain a job-related eye injury that requires medical treatment. March is Workplace Eye Wellness Month, which is recognized by the Prevent Blindness organization and promotes awareness on preventing eye damage in both office and industrial settings.

With an increased amount of "screen time" due to the use of smart phones and tablets, it is more important than ever to protect yourself from eye strain if you work at a computer. Arrange your workspace in such a way that prevents glare on your computer screen. Removing dust or using a glare filter can also help. Give

your eyes a rest with the "20-20-20 break"; every 20 minutes, take a 20-second break and look at something 20 feet away. Additionally, employees who work 20 hours or more on a computer should take a 15-minute alternative work break after two consecutive hours.

When working out in the field you can protect yourself from eye injury by using appropriate eye or face protection, such as safety glasses, goggles and shields, when exposed to hazards such as flying particles, dust, molten metal, harmful liquids, and chemical gases or vapors. For more information, visit the [Prevent Blindness](#) website and see DEP's [Ergonomics 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



Although New York City did not receive the amount of snow yesterday that most predictions had called for, upwards of 30 inches fell on portions of the watershed and sleet and ice created difficult conditions across the city. And, as always, DEP employees stepped up to the challenge to ensure that our critical services continued without any major interruptions. In addition, some employees assisted the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) with the effort to clear public roadways and others staffed the Office of Emergency Management's Operations Center. Across the five boroughs and throughout the watershed, DEP employees demonstrated their commitment to serving the more than nine million New Yorkers who rely on us each day.

In the watershed, the Bureau of Water Supply made operational changes to reduce any potential impacts the high winds could have on water quality at Kensico Reservoir and the Bureau of Police and Security utilized a new TRACK

system for their UTV's which allows them to patrol areas that otherwise would not be easily accessible. In the city, water quality staff braved difficult driving conditions and strong winds to ensure that samples from the distribution system were gathered and tested. The Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations responded to a water leak in Grymes Hill on Staten Island and made the necessary repairs and restored water service during the height of the storm. At the wastewater treatment plants and pumping stations, crews from the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment worked around the clock helping to protect the health of our waterways, and numerous personnel helped clear snow at DEP facilities and supported DSNY citywide plowing operations.

At all levels of the agency, DEP employees demonstrated that we are prepared to deal with any emergency and ensure we continue to serve our customers. Again, thank you all.



Chilean Diplomats Tour New Croton



A delegation from Santiago, Chile, visited New Croton Dam last week to discuss New York City's watershed protection programs. The delegation was joined by employees from The Nature Conservancy and former DEP Commissioner **Al Appleton**. Santiago is looking to develop its own watershed protection programs to mitigate potential threats to water quality. In recent years, Santiago's water supply has been threatened by forest fires and large mudslides, the group said. Visitors from the South American city were keen to learn about the funding of DEP's watershed protection efforts and the partnership programs with local nonprofit groups that administer farm, septic and other programs.

Food Service Trade Show at Javits



Eva Lynch, a member of the Bureau of Public Affairs and Communications, speaks with a guest at the trade show

DEP staff engaged thousands of attendees at the annual International Restaurant & Foodservice Show, held last week from March 5-7 at the Javits Convention Center in Manhattan. Members of BPAC distributed environmental compliance information and served up gallons of world famous New York City tap water.

Discounted Nets Tickets Available

A limited number of [discounted tickets](#) are available for DEP employees, family members and friends to see the Brooklyn Nets take on the Boston Celtics at the Barclays Center on Friday, March 17, at 7:30 pm. For every ticket purchased through this offer, you will receive a Brook Lopez jersey to be picked up on the night of the game. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to **Joe Grande** JGrande@Brooklynets.com from the Brooklyn Nets or **Adrian Allen** AAllen@dep.nyc.gov from NYC DEP.

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

Air Monitoring Goes Mobile



For the past few months, DEP's Air Monitoring Compliance unit has been using a new van-mounted, compact air monitoring station to measure particulate matter in various locations across the city. As opposed to traditional fixed-based air quality monitoring stations, this pilot project is exploring the advantages of mobile air monitoring systems that can be installed in the back of a van. This new system is designed so that it can be quickly deployed and placed anywhere a van can park and is outfitted with solar panels, enabling the equipment to autonomously record data for up to three days—even while the engine is off. The apparatus automatically uploads recorded data into a virtual cloud, allowing our air quality staff to access the results in real time, cutting down weeks of analysis time typically spent in the lab. For

quality assurance purposes, the van was initially operated beside a fixed-base reference station in Queens. Analysis of data from the co-location study showed that the measurements exhibited a strong correlation with those of the reference station. This promising new system potentially offers DEP a flexible and cost-effective way to conduct neighbourhood-specific particulate monitoring in response to community concerns.



Welcome Aboard!



On Monday, 19 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development **Diana Jones Ritter** and Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Julissa Arno-Vega, William Bieber, Jaret Horn, Joseph Moore, Albert Onochie and **Corinne Thompson** with BWS; **Meaghan Burke, Florin Diaconu, Derrol Mentore, Denise Moore, Botros Rafeael, MD Elhamul Rokoni** and **Kim St. Helen** with BWSO; **Victor Chaluisan** and **Arista Kenneally** with BWT; **Debra Hall, Denis Lartin** and **Robert Taylor** with CDBG; and **Sandra Thompson-Reid** with OEHS.