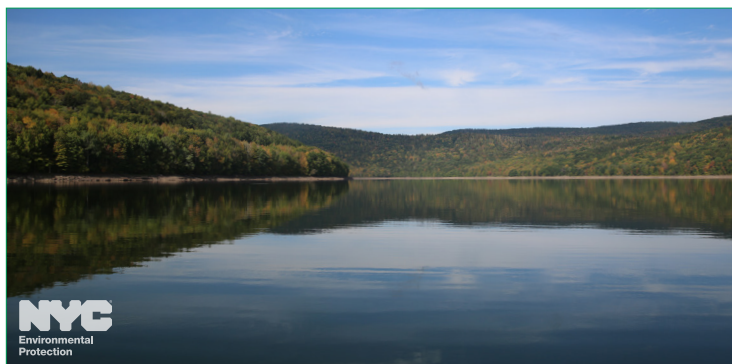


Pepacton Release Valve Inspection



Release valves at Pepacton Reservoir will be shut down for eight hours each day from Dec. 6–8 to facilitate an underwater inspection of infrastructure at the reservoir. The information gathered during the inspection will allow DEP to design a project to replace valves at the release chamber—a project that is expected to happen several years from now. Releases from Pepacton Reservoir will be ramped back up to the rate specified in the Flexible Flow Management Program once the inspection is complete.

Spotlight on Safety

Safety First in Disaster Recovery

The winter season is almost here, which means it is important to prepare for driving in hazardous weather conditions. Snow and rain events can cause slick road conditions and impaired visibility. Many accidents occur during transition times between seasons when roads can go between wet and freezing very quickly.

You can be safe driving personal and work vehicles by taking the following precautions:

- Inspect vehicles before every use to ensure tires, lights, wipers, window washing fluid and other equipment are in good working order.
- Brush/scrape snow and ice off all windows, mirrors and lights prior to driving.
- Clear exhaust pipes of snow to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Make sure you can see and be seen.
- Brake gently to avoid skidding, use low gears to keep traction.
- If you hit a slick patch, don't overcompensate by trying to steer out of it. Take your foot off the gas and allow the steering system to right itself, and then slowly steer out of the situation.
- Reduce speed and maintain a safe distance from other vehicles.
- Report defective DEP vehicles to your supervisor immediately.

For more information, visit [OSHA's Winter Weather](#) 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.

Special Guest Commissioner's Corner



Kevin McBride, Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Police and Security, is a guest commentator this week.

Yesterday, 44 new recruits were welcomed to the Staff Sgt. Robert H. Dietz DEP Police Academy in the City of Kingston. The new recruits comprise a diverse class that includes three military veterans, as well as men and women who were born in eight different countries and speak 10 different languages. The recruits will participate in seven months of rigorous training before joining the DEP Police as sworn officers to protect the largest municipal water supply in the United States.

The new class of recruits is the 13th to be trained through an academy run by DEP, and the third to be trained at the department's new

academy facility in Kingston. The class was selected from among 1,568 candidates who were screened through physical training exams, medical tests, and background checks.

DEP police recruits go through a rigorous program that comprises 1,275 hours of training over the span of seven months. Upon graduation, new recruits and their colleagues in the DEP Police Division are charged with protecting 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.

Recruits trained at the DEP Police Academy will eventually be stationed at one of seven DEP Police precincts in Ashokan, Beerston, Downsville, Eastview, Gilboa, Grahamsville, or Yonkers.

Our new recruits will soon play an important role in securing the water supply, and I want to congratulate them and their families as they begin months of important training.



Last Call for A.C.E. Nominations



Do you know someone who is always creating excellence at DEP? To [nominate](#) a colleague and/or a team for an A.C.E. award, please indicate the employee(s) information, which category you are nominating him/her for, and a justification for the award in the award category selected. Please refer to the "Guidelines and Tips for Writing a Winning Award Nomination" on DEP's [Employee Resource Center](#) if you need more details on how to write a nomination. For further assistance, you may contact **Herb Roth** at ext. 3377, **Renee M. Alfieri** at ext. 5827 or **Andrea Shivcharan** at ext. 4019. The deadline for submissions is Friday, Dec. 1.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 14 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza**, Chief Strategy Officer **Diana Jones Ritter**, HR Specialist **Grace Franco** and Recruitment Coordinator **Briana Lomax-Day**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Eric M. Ma and **Max J. Pina** with BEC; **William H. Velez Pabon** with BEDC; **Sarah Bray** with BEPA; **Tiffany J. Sperl** with BWS; **Susmita Haider Alam**, **Abdul-Musawwir Nicholson** with BWSO; **Dimitrios Bakopoulos** and **Glenrow L. Thomas** with BWT; **Jagruiti P. Solao** with CDBG/BIB; **Daniel Torres** with CFO/ FMC; **Shakel Basunia**, **Jacqueline Noel** and **Miguel Vale** with CFO/OIT.

Don't Miss Out on the Holiday Party



DEP's 2017 Holiday Party is being held Wednesday, Dec. 20, from 6–10:30pm at Russo's On the Bay, 162-45 Cross Bay Blvd., Howard Beach, NY. The cost is \$82.00 per person and includes open bar, cocktail hour, buffet, and DJ.

Full payment for the event, which is being hosted in collaboration with the Quality of Work Life Committee, is due on Friday, Dec. 1. Employees who are unable to come to Lefrak to make a payment should email QWL_Events@dep.nyc.gov or call **Renee M. Alfieri** at 718-595-5827.

Gifts Needed for Holiday Toy Drive



Help bring a smile to a child! Please take part in DEP's Holiday Toy Drive by donating new and unwrapped toys, sports equipment or accessories for young people from tots to teens. Please drop off toys with your [bureau coordinators](#). There are only three more weekends to shop—the final day to donate is Tuesday, Dec. 19. For more details, please contact **Joe Sokolowski** at ext. 6168 or **Sara Pecker** at ext. 5487. For information about watershed toy drive collections, please contact **Danielle McCutcheon** at 843-340-7263 or dmccutcheon@dep.nyc.gov.

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