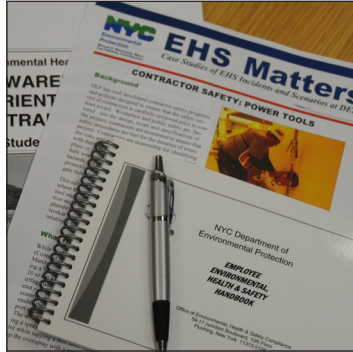


EHS: It's deeper than the numbers... It's the culture!

There is great news on the Environmental, Health and Safety front as DEP continues to raise the safety bar. In June, DEP was awarded the American Water Works Association's LaDue Safety award in the large U.S. water utility class. This is a great accomplishment and is reflective of the commitment of every DEP employee to safety and protection of the environment.

For the third consecutive year, the number of injuries in all bureaus is significantly down—from 374 in FY10 to 296 in FY 11. And, for the first time since we have been collecting EHS metrics, DEP's injury incidence rate (5.0) is lower than the U.S. average for workers in



public waste water and water utilities (6.5)! So what is behind these dramatic drops? EHS Assistant Commissioner **Persis Luke** believes the growing and integrated commitment to safety and renewed

(Continued on reverse side)

Spotlight on Safety

Recycling Update

New York City's Recycling Law, originally enacted in 1989, promotes the recovery of materials from the solid waste stream for the purpose of recycling such materials and returning them to the economy. The law mandates materials recycling by residents, agencies, and businesses. It also defines what materials are to be considered recyclable and the responsibilities of the parties. City agencies are required to recycle the same materials as residents.

The 1989 law was amended several times, and in 2010, Local Laws 36 and 41 were passed requiring City agencies to designate recycling coordinators (at DEP it is Persis Luke, Assistant Commissioner for Environmental, Health and Safety), and to submit waste prevention, reuse and recycling plans, and annual implementation reports to the NYC Department of Sanitation.

Each DEP site is required to set up an effective recycling program including designating an area for

commonly discarded recyclables, labeling recycling containers, and insuring that garbage is kept separate from recyclables as they are collected throughout the building, stored, and placed for pick up.

The DEP Recycling Plan describes how to set up a program, and provides details on how recycling areas need to be set up, and our responsibilities in agency owned and leased facilities. The plan can be found in the OEHS section of Pipeline. Employees should contact their bureau EHS Office to identify the Facility Recycling Coordinator for further information on the program.

Every DEP employee has a responsibility to make sure that garbage is never placed in the recyclables bag, paper and cardboard do not go in the same bag with beverage cartons, bottles, cans, metal and foil, and that cardboard boxes are flattened, bundled or bagged. To cut down on pests, make sure containers for food waste are covered and lined with black plastic bags.

Commissioner's Corner



Tour of North River WWTP following fire with Mayor Bloomberg

After 84 straight weeks, this is my final Commissioner's Corner. While I'm sad to go, the disappointment is mitigated by the knowledge that I won't be going far. Last week, **Mayor Bloomberg** appointed me Deputy Mayor for Operations, which will become effective next week. In this capacity, I'll be working closely with all of the operational agencies—including DEP—to deliver the world class services that millions of New Yorkers, and the people who work in and visit this city, rightly expect. That includes the world-class water, sewer, and other services that DEP delivers every day.

While my tenure as Commissioner has been a comparatively brief 19 months, thanks to what I believe is among the most talented work forces in the country, we have achieved a great deal. We are implementing a comprehensive strategic plan that will improve service to our 835,000 customers, the quality and efficiency of our operations, the management of our \$14 billion capital plan, and the sustainability of our city. To that end, we have launched a green infrastructure plan that will save New Yorkers more than \$2 billion over 20 years; certified that our 14 wastewater treatment plants are meeting Clean Water Act standards; installed wireless meter readers at more than 729,000 homes and given our customers real-time access to the amount of water they are using; and initiated a plan to fix the leaks in the Delaware Aqueduct that will protect the integrity of the city's water supply infrastructure for generations to come.

We have done all of this and much more thanks to the dedication of our nearly 6,000 employees, each of whom has a vital role in fulfilling DEP's core mission. And thousands of architects, engineers, skilled-trades workers and others are building and strengthening the infrastructure necessary to deliver one billion gallons of water every day, and treat 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater. Beyond these stakeholders are the regulators and environmental advocates who work with us to ensure that we protect public health and the natural resources that are vital to New York City's prosperity. I'd want to particularly note our partners in the watershed—including CWC, WAC, county and town officials and the residents they represent—who work with us to protect the source waters that nine million New Yorkers need every day.



January 1, 2010: First day on the job tour

As much as we have done, there is much, much more to do. And while I won't be able to work as closely with you on a day-to-day basis from City Hall, DEP's mission, and our strategic plan to carry it out will remain a focus of my efforts. I will do everything I can to sustain the successes we have achieved, and implement as many of our strategic initiatives as possible—from completing AMR, to reducing DEP's carbon footprint and energy needs, to breaking ground on the shafts for the Rondout-West Branch tunnel bypass. Thank you to everyone for your effort and support; I look forward to our continued work together.

All the best,
Cas

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.

Focus on the Field



During **Mahendra Sewnarine's** eight years at DEP, two ideas have stayed with him. First, no matter how routine his tasks may seem, "each day brings new challenges and experiences that are learning opportunities." For example, during last month's heat wave, he worked with field operations in shutting down illegally opened fire hydrants and saw first-hand how critical it was to be part of that. A second strongly-held idea that moves him is knowing he is "part of the team effort needed to ensure that whenever a faucet is opened in New York City, consumers are receiving the highest quality of water."

Among his varied responsibilities, as a watershed maintainer in reservoir operations, Mahen-

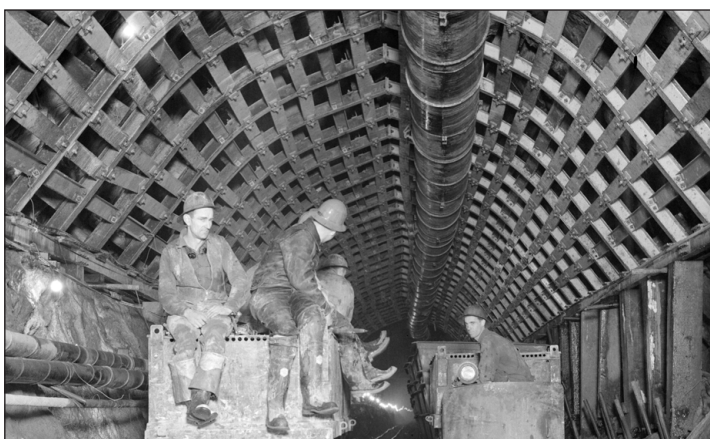
dra conducts safety inspections at numerous DEP facilities including reservoirs at Hillview, Jerome Park, and Central Park, and several gatehouses.

In covering Yonkers, the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island, safety is paramount and his work revolves around maintenance, inspection, testing, and monitoring of safety equipment, fire extinguishers, emergency lighting and signage. Mahendra also reviews operational and safety procedures that ensure secure handling of chemical storage tanks and that emergency eyewash stations are up-to-date. Work also entails overseeing clean-up of minor chemical spills and confined space entries.

Mahendra's previous experience in construction and masonry, as well as in manufacturing and circuit board production has served him well in working with his colleagues and outside contractors. There are instances when, for example, he has had to ensure that emergency contract work be completed accurately and on time.

Camping and fishing with his children are among his favorite pastimes, but he also enjoys good movies.


Out of the Archives



This image was staged by the Board of Water Supply at the West Branch-Kensico Tunnel of the Delaware Aqueduct on November 1, 1940 to demonstrate unsafe working conditions. Look closely at the image – can you see the possible safety issues? For example, if the motorman was traveling fast there is no grip for the men in case of a sudden stop. Also note the trains on the other track – the men's legs are hanging over the side of the car and passing cars may crush them. The rock shown between the tracks is from a passing train. Motormen had to be on the alert for such hazards in the path of the train.

The Board took safety seriously and employed three safety engineers, one for each field department. The safety engineers made frequent inspections of plant, equipment and work conditions. In addition to the safety engineers employed by the Board, contractors were also required to have dedicated safety personnel.

Press Box

"All around Stephen Askew was raw sewage, eight feet deep, flooding a crippled waste-treatment plant in Harlem. But Mr. Askew never had a choice; he had to go in. It was three days after a catastrophic fire damaged the plant and began sending waste into the city's waterways, forcing the closing of beaches, and workers were engaged in a desperate bid to restart operations." – NY Times story on the impressive effort by DEP workers and contractors to get the North River Wastewater Treatment plant up and running within 48 hours of a devastating four-alarm fire 

(EHS: It's deeper than the numbers...It's the culture!... continued)

commitment to transparency and open EHS communication is the common thread: "DEP employees that I come in contact with, both in the office and field environment, have a strong working knowledge, interest, and desire for sound EHS policies, systems and best practices, which is highly commendable. This is also a driving force with BEDC as EHS performance for contractors becomes a priority. The participation in this years' EHS survey is a demonstration of that commitment with a 41% response rate!" This positive momentum is also clearly the result of a commitment to the EHS goals that are embodied in the EHS section of *Strategy 2011-2014*. These include:

- Measure EHS performance and demand success
- Integrate EHS compliance into every aspect of DEP operations and construction
- Ensure effective EHS training and education for all employees
- Encourage open, frequent, and candid communication about EHS issues

These goals are being achieved and are supported by new EHS programs and a renewed commitment on the part of DEP management and its employees. All of the elements of DEP's EHS Pro-

gram - EHS Matters, EHS Matters Employee Recognition Program, Spotlight on Safety, EHS Suggestion E-mail, Training and Training Administration Systems, and Programmatic EHS Audits are all strategies working to make DEP a first class government agency with the safest workforce

In addition to our EHS Program, BEDC has begun the process of implementing the EHS Management System. Patterned after the recognized industry EHS Management System standards (ISO 14000 and OSHA 18000), this new endeavor will enable BEDC to better measure, plan, and take actions to reach higher and quantifiable measures of EHS success. Development of this system relies on input from OEHS and the operational bureaus, and will ensure that projects meet the EHS objectives of the bureaus and staff that will be operating the new infrastructure.

DEP would not be making the significant strides in transforming our safety culture without the valuable contributions of our employees. The most important thing to remember is that our EHS program functions best with YOUR input! The next time you have an idea or question, send an email to: ehs@dep.nyc.gov. Keep up the great work!

TO COMMISSIONER HOLLOWAY: GOOD LUCK – BUT NOT GOOD BYE.

The past 19 months have been busy to say the least. DEP has made significant strides to improve how we do business, from developing a 100-point strategic plan, to implementing a comprehensive green infrastructure plan, to enhancing our level of customer service. We also continue to perform at the highest standards for water and wastewater operations—a fact that was evident from our bureau-wide response to the fire at the North River Wastewater Treatment Plant. Your leadership and demand for excellence in all aspects of DEP's work has been a critical element of each of these efforts. We know that you will bring this same level of accountability and results to your new position as Deputy Mayor for Operations at City Hall. Good luck!

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