

## Meet The Fleet

Whether they're bobbing about in Jamaica Bay or cutting through the East River, DEP's fleet of 10 vessels and one barge help the Agency move sludge, clean our waterways, and study the health of New York Harbor.

For cost-effective transportation of biosolids, the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment dewaterers liquid sludge into a "cake," reducing volume by 90%. But some of the treatment plants don't have dewatering facilities on site. DEP's three sludge vessels and one barge move sludge from Newtown Creek, Owls Head, Rockaway, Tallman Island, and North River to a dewatering facility, like the one at Wards Island. Together, our sludge boats transport more than 500,000 cubic feet of liquid sludge every day, or about 3.7 million gallons. In a typical week, each sludge vessel makes about 14 round trips from one wastewater treatment plant to another.

The M/V Red Hook is our newest sludge vessel—as the largest ship in the fleet, she's a real heavyweight, coming in at 3,135 tons. She can carry about 150,000 cubic feet of sludge, or about 50% more than our other boats. It took three years to



build and outfit the vessel with the latest marine and wastewater management technologies. Among the captains who operate the M/V Red Hook is **Chris Riel**, and the rest of her crew consists of a chief engineer, an assistant engineer, a mate, and two mariners.

But our fleet has a lot more than just sludge vessels. DEP's skimmers maintain the cleanliness of the City's waterways. The Jamaica Bay, Ibis, Piping Plover and Snowy Egret all capture floatable material like plastic bottles and wood, and remove the debris for disposal. This debris collects within the booms on 23 CSO outfalls around the City. The Cormorant, is a large skimmer vessel that can remove floatable debris from open waterways.

Our Harbor Survey Vessel, The Osprey, is a 55-foot laboratory-at-sea.

(Continued on reverse side)

## Spotlight on Safety

### April is Injury Prevention Month!

DEP's Injury & Illness Investigation & Recordkeeping policy is to ensure that all DEP operations record and report occupational illnesses and injuries in accordance with NYS Department of Labor Public Employee Safety and Health (PESH) requirements.

- Another goal of this procedure is to prevent recurrences of occupational injuries and illnesses by investigating major incidents, identifying root causes and taking corrective actions.

- Incident investigation helps to identify hazardous areas and work assignments, systemic or repetitive patterns, and improvements that will reduce the overall injury and illness rate.

Employees are responsible for immediately reporting all occupational injuries and illnesses, including near misses.

Remember: "Safety is a continuing journey, not a final destination."

[DEP's Policy on Injury & Illness Investigation & Recordkeeping.](#)

## Commissioner's Corner



Yesterday, **Mayor Bloomberg**, with help from Staten Island Elected Officials and community groups, broke ground on the second-largest park project that the administration has undertaken, the remediation of the Brookfield Avenue Landfill. This \$266 million project will create 1,800 jobs over the next six years, will remediate 132 acres of landfill that includes toxins illegally dumped at the site in the 1970s and, once complete, will open 272 acres to public recreation. The scope of work includes 17,000 trees and approximately 76,000 other plantings, and is a major step forward in the Mayor's effort to create a greener, greater New York City. BEDC Deputy Commissioner **James Mueller** and **Roy Tysvaer**, Director of Wastewater Treatment and Water Quality, **Kevin Clarke**, Chief of Wastewater and Water Infrastructure and Support, **Ray Meshkati**, Chief of Facilities Construction South, **Nayan Shah**, Executive Construction Manager, **Joel Dungca**, Senior Construction Manager, and **Rafael Betemit**, Design Project Manager, as well as other members of the team, were on hand to get the project started. I would also like to thank Deputy Commissioner **Angela Licata** and Director of Ecological Services **John McLaughlin** from our Environmental Planning and Analysis team. And, the Mayor was joined by Congressman **Michael E. McMahon**, Staten Island Borough President **James P. Molinaro**, State Senator **Andrew J. Lanza**, Assemblyman **Lou Tobacco**, Assemblyman **Michael Cusick**, and City Council Members **James S. Oddo** and **Vincent M. Ignizio**, all of whom played an important role moving this project forward. Special thanks goes

to State DEC Commissioner **Pete Grannis** and Region 2 Director **Susan Mattei** for partnering with DEP to ensure that this project has sufficient funding to be built.

On Wednesday, March 31, I stopped by the Red Hook Wastewater Treatment Plant

for the monthly managers meeting held by BWT Deputy Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza**. I thanked our managers for great performance during the recent rainstorms, and asked for their help as we develop a plan to reduce DEP's greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency.

On Thursday, April 1, I went into the field to see our BWSO crews at work cleaning catch basins and resolving sewer back-ups. Deputy Commissioner **James Roberts**, Brooklyn Borough Manager **Thomas Marrama**, Acting Director of Field Operations **Anastasios Georgelis** and District Supervisor **Danny Bollaert** led the field visit, which started at a clogged catch basin at North 12<sup>th</sup> and Berry Streets. Supervisors **Curvin Hamilton** and **Danny Spinosa**, and Construction Laborers **Hector Vargas**, **Dennis Peacock**, and **Radhames Soto** showed me the ropes, removing several healthy scoops of material from the basin to restore normal flow capacity. The next stop was 116 Harrison Street to clear a mid-block sewer back-up. Construction Laborers **Anthony Muniz** and **Lee Slade** showed me how they isolate the back-up location by looking at whether manholes in the vicinity are surcharged, and then clear it out with a small battering ram propelled by high-water pressure. The team cleared the back-up in minutes, restoring normal flow to a residential block that I'm sure was very grateful. Thanks to the Brooklyn BWSO team for a great tutorial—I'll be on the lookout for our crews in Brooklyn and throughout the five boroughs.

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.

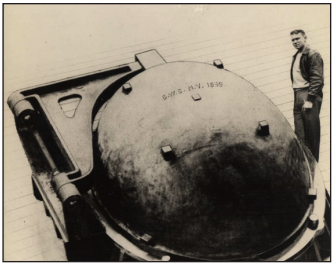
CALL (800) 897-9677 OR SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH PIPELINE. HELP IS ON THE WAY.



The water and sewer rates that DEP's 834,000 customers pay fund just about everything that the agency does. As the Financial Management System (FMS) Security Officer and Business Liaison for DEP, **Qusicy Barry** helps us track and spend that money responsibly. Overseen by the ACCO (Agency Chief Contracting Officer) **Carol Fenves**, Qusicy began working with DEP in January of 1993, and recently played a key role as a Project Manager during the

implementation of the Citywide FMS 3 System, training DEP staff on the various uses of this cutting-edge technology, including procurement functions, contract processing, vendor management, budget inquiries and more. "Such information is absolutely vital." In his spare time, Qusicy works out, plays power forward and center, and teaches six to ten-year olds how to play basketball. "I love to teach. This is a good way to serve the community by giving back, and I see it as a way of keeping our children active." He and **Ian Alexander**, Telecommunications Associate, have helped keep DEP employees active, serving as co-organizers of DEP's co-ed summer basketball league. He's a New York Knicks fan, and we at Weekly Pipeline would never, ever joke about that.

## DEP: Then & Now



**Then:** Each of the three sections of the Delaware Aqueduct has a designated drainage shaft containing a pump chamber so that the tunnel may be dewatered. These shafts each contain an access drift which is closed by a watertight, cast-bronze door as seen in the image below. (hdq.d.2003; 1/10/1940)



**Now:** Today, the bronze access door is a key element in ongoing work to repair the Delaware Aqueduct. In order to ensure that the tunnel can be dewatered safely, extensive research is being done by DEP engineers and contractors on the structural history and installation of the bronze access door. (Photograph by Ted Dowey; 1/23/2010)

### Fill Out Your Census Forms

As 120 million households receive their 2010 Census forms in the mail this week, U.S. residents are encouraged to participate in a process that is as old as the nation itself. Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution requires a census of the population every 10 years to ensure the fair allocation of representatives in Congress. For more information, go to <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/index.php>

### EHS Survey Coming

DEP wants to know what you think of the Agency's EHS program. A survey will be rolled out on the Intranet starting April 15th and in paper copy on May 3rd. So fill one out and let us know what you think.

**Q.** On Tuesday, March 30th, while looking at the DEP website I noticed that our reservoir levels are at 101.0%, well above the normal level of 94.4% thanks to all the rain we have been getting.

My questions are; with a reservoir level at 101.0%, where is all the additional water over 100.0% stored and what is the maximum level in percentage DEP is capable of storing?

**Andy Rousseau**, Supervisor Electrician, BWSO

**A.** Additional water above 100% is stored in the reservoir. 100% indicates reservoir capacity below spillway crest level. At levels above 100%, the additional water spills out of a controlled spillway designed for this purpose.

The reservoirs are capable of storing much more than 100%. Depending on their geographical location and size, the number is different from reservoir to reservoir. For example, Cannonsville Reservoir was built so it could store water 22.5' above its spillway crest, or a capacity of 139%! This certainly isn't something we would ever expect to occur, but shows you how robust our infrastructure is.

### (Meet the Fleet... - continued)

The Osprey supports DEP's harbor water quality program, collecting water quality samples for analysis conducted by the Marine Sciences Section and the Microbiology Laboratory. A smaller vessel, The Kestrel, is used for monitoring shallow waters, and assists DEP's Shoreline Survey Program, which monitors outfalls along the City's shoreline and investigates the illegal discharge of contaminants into our waterways.

DEP's Marine Operations Section, led by Capt. **Kevin Byrnes** and under overall direction of DC **Vincent Sapienza** operates all of the vessels in DEP's fleet, except for four of the smaller skimmers, which are operated by contractors. The Marine Sec-

tion is comprised of 65 people, all of whom are endorsed by the United States Coast Guard and/or are licensed professionals. Many of them have been trained through one of the Maritime Academies, such as Kings Point and SUNY Maritime, or through maritime union schools.

As impressive as our fleet is now, it's growing. Three new sludge vessels, funded by the Federal Stimulus Bill, should enter service in 2012. These new vessels will handle the sludge from Newtown Creek, which is producing more sludge as its upgrade to secondary treatment nears completion. The 1960's vintage M/V Newtown Creek will be retired when the new vessels arrive.

### DEP Upstate Blood Drive

There were 183 pints of blood donated from the BWS Upstate DEP facilities. We would like to thank everyone for their donations. A special thanks to **Arlene Siegel Fishman** and **Malini Strickland** who ran and coordinated both the Lefrak and Upstate Blood Drives. The next blood drive will be June 15, 16, 17.

### DEP Staff Support Relief Efforts in Haiti

A special thanks to the following DEP employees for their participation in and support of the benefit sponsored by the VESID District Office - State Employees Federated Appeal to raise funds for the relief efforts in Haiti: **Carl Ambrose, William Angelini, Mike Caban, Scott Foster, Noemi Gonzalez, John Lento, William Maggiulli, Deana Rodriguez, Jeff Schneider, Sam Somerville, Patricia Turner, and Stacy Young.**

**We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: [newsletter@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:newsletter@dep.nyc.gov)**