



THE DEP DIGEST



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A LETTER FROM THE COMMISSIONER

WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE of DEP's new newsletter, The DEP Digest. With The DEP Digest, we hope to share with everyone here a broad selection of DEP news, special events, future plans, and interviews. I've had the fortune of being your Commissioner for just over a year now, and in that time I've had the opportunity to witness some tremendous achievements from all corners of our Agency. It is my hope that with this newsletter you, too, will discover the accomplishments of your fellow DEP employees, as well as gain an idea of where our agency is headed in the future. As many of you know, with Mayor Bloomberg's support, we were recently able

to more than double our capital budget for the next ten years. This translates into the chance for us to focus on expanding and rehabilitating the City's water supply and distribution infrastructure, and to continue work on longer-term capital projects such as Water Tunnel No. 3, a filtration plant for the Croton water supply, and the upgrading of our wastewater treatment plants - goals and projects that will make life better for the nine million people we serve. The work we will accomplish over the next few years is so important to this great city's ability to thrive and grow - and will ensure New York will be as strong and healthy for future generations as it has been for so long. It's my belief

that we have the opportunity and the ability to enhance what DEP is capable of even more in the coming year - and to do it in a manner that's efficient and courteous, and shows how much pride we all take in our work keeping the City running. Every day I enjoy hearing about everything that goes on here at DEP. I hope you do, too.

Very truly yours,

Christopher O. Ward

SAFETY, COMPLIANCE, AND DEP

DEP'S OFFICE OF Environmental, Health & Safety Compliance (OEHS) is working to ensure that the Agency complies with applicable federal, State, and local environmental and occupational health & safety laws and regulations. OEHS is dedicated to implementing policies and procedures that make sure all of the equipment, materials, and substances that we use to deliver our services to the public also protect our fellow workers, our communities, and the environment at large.

OEHS's Assistant Commissioner Gerould McCoy works with a diverse OEHS staff, as well as EHS staff in different DEP bureaus, in order to fulfill the Office's mission. Their responsibilities include coordinating and providing training to DEP staff on environmental health & safety procedures and inspecting DEP facilities for environmental compliance. OEHS is also drafting and implementing a new, comprehensive EHS Compliance Program that will include implementation of policies and operating procedures to help make sure DEP maintains the highest levels of safety for its employees and those we serve. OEHS's work will ensure that environmental, health and safety policies and practices are instituted comprehensively throughout DEP, making our agency even safer and stronger.

For more information, check DEP's EHS intranet site at: <http://appserv1.atsd.nycnet/dep>, or contact Gerould McCoy at (718) 595 - 4782.

AN INTERVIEW WITH: DENISE RICHARDSON, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, BCS



DEP: How has it been so far coming back to DEP? Have you been doing anything special to settle into your role as Deputy Commissioner?

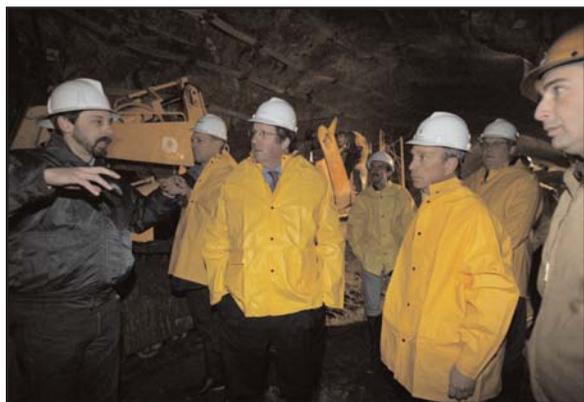
DR: It's been wonderful returning to DEP [Deputy Commissioner Richardson previously worked at DEP as Deputy ACCO], and starting work with BCS. I've had a great time becoming more familiar with the bureau and its operations. It's been a great learning experience: in my first few days here, I went home, found my meter and its remote reading device, and found out whether I had estimated or actual billing. It's actual, it turns out. I've also had the opportunity to go out into the field with inspectors and see what they've got to do every day. It's pretty incredible; BCS is a bureau where you get to see a real intersection between the services the City provides for its residents and a definite interaction with the public.

What challenges do you see for BCS? What are your goals for the Bureau in the future?

In many ways BCS is like a giant jigsaw puzzle, with all of these parts that come together to make a giant whole: we bill rate-payers, track payments, make sure checks are associated with the correct accounts, issue notices - the list goes on. It's amazing how much work and organization goes into your bills - something that, when you're on the receiving end, you barely notice. It's fascinating. And I think that relates to something that's both a challenge and a goal for BCS in the future - making sure that portion of our customers who choose not to pay their bills start paying them. If I can do one thing, I want it to be that - to get people to pay. It's unfair to every other property owner and ratepayer that a certain segment isn't paying for their services. We'll be undertaking an account-by-account investigation to uncover the reasons people don't pay. If they aren't metered, we'll get them metered and we'll go after them for payment. Thankfully, the Water Board's rules allow us a number of options to pursue people, and we're going to take advantage of that.

So, you're enjoying DEP?

I'd have to say that my return to DEP has been great - when I returned I was welcomed back by so many people I had worked with before. It was a great feeling. I've had the fortune of working at many City agencies, and coming back here made me realize just how wonderful a place DEP is to work - the staff at BCS impresses me more every day with their commitment, and I find everyone throughout the Agency is among the best in their fields. It's really a fortunate experience.



*Mayor Bloomberg and Commissioner Ward
visiting the workers at Tunnel No. 3.*

WATER TUNNEL NUMBER 3: ON TRACK UNDERGROUND

DEP'S BIGGEST ONGOING PROJECT is the construction of Water Tunnel No. 3. This massive water distribution project started in 1970 and will encompass 60 miles of tunnels under New York City. It is one of the largest capital construction programs in the City's history, and one of the most important in ensuring the continued delivery of sufficient water to more than eight million New Yorkers.

The first stage of Tunnel No. 3, which travels from the Bronx, through Manhattan, and ends in Queens, was completed and put into use in 1998. The tunnel component of the first section of Stage Two, connecting Manhattan to Brooklyn and Queens, was completed in May 2001. The Bureau of Environmental Engineering is now coordinating the construction of supply shafts for this section of Tunnel No. 3, which will feed water from this tunnel hundreds of feet underground to the distribution system at street

level. Once completed in 2005, this section will improve service to Staten Island, Brooklyn, and Queens.

This summer, construction is commencing on the Manhattan leg of Tunnel No. 3's second Stage. The Manhattan leg will entail almost ten miles of underground tunneling, extending all the way from 60th Street on Manhattan's West Side south to lower Manhattan, then turn and travel north to finish in Midtown on Manhattan's East Side. The first phase of construction, which will run from West 60th Street to the entrance of the Holland Tunnel, should be finished by the end of 2004.

We expect to have the entire tunnel operational by 2020. Upon completion, Tunnel No. 3 will create a more flexible means of supplying drinking water to the entire City, and will provide delivery alternatives in the event of the disruption or shutdown of either of the older tunnels.

Mayor Bloomberg visited the construction site of Shaft #26B on 30th Street and 10th Avenue late last year. He was impressed both by the immense scope of the project and the dedication of the workers digging so deep under the City.

INTRODUCING:

ROBERT CUCINOTTA AND THE OIT

DEP RECENTLY CREATED the Office of Information Technology (OIT). Under the direction of its new Assistant Commissioner, Robert Cucinotta, OIT will work to improve DEP's information services and telecommunications. Assistant Commissioner Cucinotta and his group will be responsible for everything from acquiring new telecommunications technology for the Agency to building and expanding the systems infrastructure that enables us to use this technology in the first place.

In general, OIT will work with all of the bureaus to develop and manage an overall information strategy for DEP – one that serves the Agency's interests, while making sure the needs of each bureau are addressed and handled responsibly. In addition, OIT will work with the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications and the Department of Investigation to provide security aimed at protecting DEP's information systems from computer intrusion or vandalism.

OIT will also have a hand in day-to-day operations at DEP. While OIT will focus on broad, Agency-wide planning, it will also manage and coordinate the everyday aspects of technology here, such as administering resources like databases, networks, e-mail, and Internet accounts, hiring IT staff throughout DEP, and making decisions about handling IT work in-house or through consultants. In all, the creation of the Office promises to lead to a safer, more reliable, and more productive strategy for using technology throughout the DEP.

CONGRATULATIONS!

In recent months, DEP and its employees have been recognized for their professional excellence:

On November 20, 2002, DEP received over \$1 million from the New York Power Authority for peak load management in 2002 for our efforts to reduce energy consumption from NYPA by using our own emergency generators for the operation of our wastewater treatment plants.

On March 18th, Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Water Supply, **Mike Principe**, received a 2003 Sloan Award for Public Service. The Sloan Awards recognize outstanding careers and contributions of New York City's civil servants.

Also on March 18th, the **Bureau of Wastewater Treatment's PO55 Biological Nitrogen Removal Applied Research Program** (located at the Research Facility at the 26th Ward WPCP) received a "Grand Award" in the American Council of Engineering Companies' (ACEC's) 2003 Engineering Excellence Awards Competition for the work being done on "Combining Bioengineering and Waste Product Recycling to Maximize Nutrient Removal."

In addition, **PO55 Applied Research Program**, with consulting engineers **Metcalf & Eddy of NY**, will receive the "2003 National Environmental Achievement Award" in the Research and Technology category for work on "Dual Phase Digestion for Soluble COD Recovery and Froth Destruction," awarded by the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA) to recognize innovative work on wastewater treatment and nitrogen control.

On April 5th, DEP and consulting engineers **Hazen & Sawyer** were awarded a 2003 New York Association of Consulting Engineers Diamond Award for excellence in environmental engineering for their work on DEP's Staten Island Bluebelt program, an innovative method for stormwater management through wetlands protection and creation.

Ideas for the next newsletter? Send them to Ryan Purdy, at rpurdy@dep.nyc.gov.