

Drinking Water Supply and Quality Report

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection is pleased to present its 2012 Annual Water Supply and Quality Report. This report was prepared in accordance with the New York State Sanitary Code, and the National Primary Drinking Water

Regulations, promulgated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The regulations require all drinking water suppliers to provide the public with an annual statement describing the sources and quality of its water supply. Download the report here [📄](#).



Spotlight on Safety

Skylights

Skylights are being used more and more in energy efficient buildings. A skylight can provide improved natural lighting and, when properly installed, help minimize heating, cooling, and lighting costs. However, for DEP employees who do work on roofs, they can create a hazard. When designing skylights, it is important to account for safety. Skylights must be installed in ways to eliminate fall hazards.

OSHA has regulations to protect workers from roof opening hazards. OSHA requires that "every skylight floor opening and hole shall be guarded by a standard skylight screen or a fixed standard railing on all exposed sides."

DEP staff and contractors must be constantly vigilant about their surroundings while working or overseeing work on roof areas.

1. Be aware of all skylights and roof openings in your work area.
2. Do not sit or step on skylights. They are not designed to support your weight.
3. Make sure that all skylights and roof openings are appropriately guarded before work begins.
4. Survey your work area for hazardous conditions before you begin. Just because fall protection guarding is required does not mean it will be there or be adequate.
5. Don't rely on someone else to make sure your work area is safe.

If you want to know more about skylight safety and fall protection in construction, see *Preventing Falls of Workers through Skylights and Roof and Floor Openings* [📄](#).

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



Last Friday, the Water Board approved a rate increase of 5.6% for FY14, our lowest increase in eight years. That keeps NYC rates just below the average rate for 30 major U.S. cities. To show ratepayers what they receive for their spending, yesterday I joined **Mayor Bloomberg**, Councilman **Jim Genarro** and members of the media at a tour of the Gowanus Pumping Station and Flushing Tunnel which are both currently under construction. Despite being damaged during Hurricane Sandy, the projects will be completed by the end of the year, thanks in part to the hard work of BEDC's **Kevin Clarke**, **Stanley Joseph**, and **Marlon King**, as well as impressive efforts by the entire construction management and design teams. Once completed, the two projects will reduce combined sewer overflows into the canal by 35 percent and allow more than two hundred million gallons of oxygen rich water from Buttermilk Channel to be pumped into the Gowanus every day. This is an important step on the road to making the canal safe for recreational boating.

The Mayor visited the Gowanus projects because they are examples of the more than \$20 billion New York City has invested in drinking and wastewater infrastructure over the last 12 years—more than any other city in the U.S. Since 2002 DEP has invested:

- \$3.6 billion on City Water Tunnel No. 3
- \$3.2 billion for the Croton filtration plant;
- \$1.6 billion to construct the largest ultraviolet disinfection facility in the world;
- \$1.6 billion to replace outdated water mains and pipes, including

the installation of more than 470 miles of new pipes;

- \$380 million to purchase and protect more than 125,000 acres of land around reservoirs to prevent contaminants from reaching the City's water supply; and
- \$250 million to upgrade City dams.

Another \$9.5 billion has been allocated toward projects that better treat wastewater and make our waterways cleaner. The work includes \$190 million for the Gowanus Canal pump station and tunnel, as well as:

- \$5 billion to upgrade the Newtown Creek wastewater treatment plant;
- \$2.2 billion for more than 600 miles of new or reconstructed sewer lines; and
- \$1.1 billion to reduce nitrogen emissions at water treatment facilities.

Virtually every dollar invested in our drinking water and wastewater systems over the last 12 years will be paid by our ratepayers, and that is why DEP has been working diligently to keep costs low and reduce the burden of unfunded federal mandates. In the last decade, 65 percent of our capital spending went toward unfunded mandates that the Federal and State governments required the City to initiate—no matter the priority of other projects or amount of debt we had to issue. Those requirements cost an average New York City water customer \$258 last year. However, in recent years we have successfully worked with the regulators to reduce burdensome requirements, which will allow us to make cost effective investments that will achieve our goals and, at the same time, keep water and sewer rates affordable for our customers.

Focus on the Field



DEP has one of the largest capital programs in the region and **Kevin Clarke** oversees numerous projects as a Portfolio Manager in the Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction's (BEDC) Wastewater Capital Program. Clarke was raised in Woodside, Queens, attended Archbishop Molloy High School, and received an undergraduate degree in environmental engineering from Manhattan College. He joined DEP in 1997 as part of BEDC's Planning Section, and thereafter earned a Master's Degree in environmental engineering while attending night school at Manhattan College.

Initially, Clarke's work involved CSO and nitrogen reduction projects for the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment, as well as the Delaware Aqueduct leak investigation, Shaft 6, and Kensico-City Tunnel planning for the Bureau of Water Supply.

In 2007, Clarke was promoted to Division Chief and moved to BEDC's Design Division. By spending time in both the planning and design of DEP projects, Clarke had a good foundation for his current role as Portfolio Manager. He now takes projects through from inception to planning, design, procurement, construction, close-out, and finally, transfer to the operational bureaus.

Some of the projects in Clarke's portfolio include the rehabilita-

tion and upgrade of the Gowanus Pumping Station and Flushing Tunnel, the installation of nitrogen removal technology at the Jamaica Wastewater Treatment Facility, and the overhaul of the Avenue V Pumping Station. In addition, he oversaw the installation of litter control devices along the Bronx River, a project that was just recently completed.

"Kevin's background and experience in both planning and design, along with a strong commitment to his projects and the environment are all useful tools in his role as a Portfolio Manager," said BEDC Deputy Commissioner **Kathryn Mallon**.

The Gowanus Pumping Station and Flushing Tunnel is a project that Clarke worked on in 2001 when he was with the Planning Division and now, despite the challenges presented by Hurricane Sandy, he and his team are working hard to re-activate both by the end of 2013. As BEDC capital projects are by their very nature large and long-term, seeing them through from initial planning to completion and activation is something that Clarke takes particular pride in.

"All of these projects will directly benefit New York City's environment and residents' quality of life," said Clarke. "Having been involved with the Gowanus project from the initial planning stages, I look forward to activating the Flushing Tunnel and Pumping Station to see the improvements in the health and quality of the water in the Canal."

During his free time Clarke enjoys the outdoors—no matter the time of year. In the summer, he can be found on Long Beach playing volleyball and trying his hand at surfing. In the colder months he hits the mountains as often as he can for snowboarding.

Watershed Protectors Remembered



40 of its members died from a form of influenza. The regiment included men and boys who were not eligible to serve overseas.

DEP Police joined members of the New York Guard's 56th Brigade on May 5 to honor the guard members who protected the New York City reservoir system during World War I. The annual gathering at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery honors those members of the First Provisional Regiment who protected the water supply more than 90 years ago. The 1,200-man regiment patrolled 98 miles of aqueducts between Kingston and Yonkers during the war. Roughly

Volunteer Opportunity



Photo Credit: Don Riepe

RESTORING JAMAICA BAY: Since 2005, DEP has spent millions of dollars on projects to restore marsh islands in Jamaica Bay. Later this month, the American Littoral Society and Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers will host volunteer opportunities to plant two marsh islands in Jamaica Bay known as Ruler's Bar and Black Wall. DEP has been a partner in the program, spending \$943,000 towards the placement of sand at these sites that will be home to the

plants. DEP also recently applied for and received a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for \$100K to help with the planting side of this effort. The first of the marsh restoration volunteer days will be May 18 and 19. If you are interested in participating, contact **Don Riepe** at the Jamaica Bay Guardian of the American Littoral Society.

Last year more than 30 BEDC employees helped collect the seeds that will be used in this year's planting. Check out the great video Don Riepe made to thank the DEP employees who helped out here.

Welcome Aboard



Yesterday, 15 new employees attended orientation and were given an overview of the department by Chief Financial Officer **Steve Lawitts** and Deputy Commissioner **Diana Jones Ritter**. As they begin their new assignments we hope everyone will take a moment to say hello and welcome them to DEP!

Frank Fontana with BCIA; **Bogdan Baginski** and **Carlos Cuadros** with BEC; **Doralee Pellot** with BEPA; **Sharon Berger**, **Ruth F. Douzinas**, **Danielle Grillo** and **Ebonie V. Simpson** with BEDC; **Jennifer Guzman** and **Nemesio M. Santos III** with WS; **Jairo C. Avila**, **John Isaac**, **Gregory Patten** and **Paul D. Sheane** with BWSO; and **Christopher Badia-Frias** with BWT.

Kudos Corner

BLOOD DONORS HONORED: On May 2, 2013, the Department of City-wide Administrative Services hosted its annual NYC Employee Blood Program Coordinators' Recognition Ceremony at Battery Park Gardens in lower Manhattan. Deputy Commissioner **Zoe Ann Campbell** and Director of Employee Benefits **Arlene Siegel-Fishman** represented DEP at the event. DEP received several awards including second place award for the top ten overall blood drives held by NYC Agencies, third place for highest donations total of all agencies (with 2,202 pints being collected), fourth place for agency with the largest increase in donations, and fifth place for agency with highest donor average per blood drive. Thanks to all DEP employees who continue to support this critical life program.

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