

Commissioner's Corner

Last week, I had the privilege of attending the 91st Annual Meeting of the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) at the Marriot Marquis in Midtown Manhattan. Over the course of the three-day event, there were 14 presentations by DEP employees, an indication of the leadership role we play in the industry. The meeting also served an important opportunity for us to learn from the experiences of our partner agencies and from the private sector. The list of impressive presentations below showcases the strength of DEP and its dedicated workforce, and is indicative of the important, interesting and innovative work the agency does. I want to sincerely thank all the DEP employees who presented and attended for proudly representing our organization. For more information on NYWEA and the Annual Meeting, [click here](#).

- “NYC DEP’s Dynamic Model to Integrate Capital Planning with Energy Conservation Measures to Meet GHG Goals,” Jane Atkinson Gajwani, BWT
- “New York City’s First Comprehensive Stormwater Management Program Plan,” Shree Dorestant, Pinar Balci, Mikelle Adgate, and Kristin Ricigliano, BEPA
- “Food Waste Co-Digestion Full-Scale Demonstration at Newtown Creek WRRF,” Mikael Amar, Jane Atkinson Gajwani, BWT
- “Standardizing Sustainability: Capturing Data for NYC DEP Projects to Help Deliver a Sustainable New York City,” Erika L. Jozwiak, BEDC
- “A National Review of Innovative and Integrated Stormwater Management Initiatives,” Pinar Balci and Kristin Ricigliano, BEPA



- “NYC DEP’s Gowanus CSO Facilities: Sustainable by Design,” Lindsay Degueldre, Natalia Perez, Kevin Clarke, and Erika L. Jozwiak, BEDC
- “Porous Concrete Panels in a New York City Street: From Design through Post-Construction Monitoring,” Faith Barclay and Adriana Kocovic, BEPA
- “Lessons Learned from NYC DEP’s Participation in the Water Research Foundation Project No. 4625: Opportunities and Barriers for Renewable and Distributed Energy Resource Development at Drinking Water and Wastewater Utilities,” Maria Cuenca, BEDC
- “Application of a Multi-Variable Project Sequence Model for DEP’s Wastewater Resiliency Program,” Colin Johnson, BEDC
- “Deployment of Ribbed Mussels to Improve Water Quality in New York City’s Waters,” **John McLaughlin**, BEPA
- “Jamaica Bay and Tributaries CSO LTCP: An Innovative Watershed Approach to CSO Control,” **Keith Mahoney** and **Nicholas Cholewka**, OACE
- “The Evolution of Developing Effective Residual Solids Management for the CSO Facility Serving the Gowanus Canal,” **Lindsay Degueldre**, **Natalia Perez**, and **Kevin Clarke**, BEDC
- “Not Your Typical Flood Protection Project: An Unprecedented and Challenging Design for DEP’s New York City Wastewater Resiliency Program,” **Colin Johnson**, BEDC
- “Framework for a Performance-Based Green Roof Incentive in New York City,” **Melissa Enoch**, BEPA



Spotlight on Safety

New Silica Rules

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has a new standard for worker exposure to silica. When breathed in, crystalline silica, also known as Quartz, can become trapped deep in the lungs and cause serious diseases such as silicosis, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and kidney disease. DEP employees who are involved in cutting, drilling, chipping, sawing or grinding into materials such as concrete, brick, tile, sand, stone, glass, mortar, and asphalt may be at risk for exposure. The new standard requires employers to keep worker exposure at or below a Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) of 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air

($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), averaged over an 8-hour work period. Certain engineering and work practices can prevent silica exposure such as:

- properly ventilating work areas;
- spraying down work areas with water; and
- vacuuming up dust instead of sweeping.

Additionally, employees working with silica dust should practice good personal hygiene and vacuum off clothes to ensure that significant dust amounts are not carried to their common work areas, vehicles, or homes at the end of the shift. For more specific information, visit [OSHA's website](#) and review the FAQs.

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.

2018 Highlights from the Watershed



The Bureau of Water Supply continued to send high-quality water to the City every minute of all 365 days last year. Here are just a few numbers to highlight from 2018:

343 billion...gallons of drinking water sent from our reservoirs to customers in New York City.

38 billion...gallons of drinking water consumed by upstate communities connected to the NYC water supply system.

53,265...samples collected by our water quality scientists in the watershed and from streetside sampling stations in the five boroughs.

654,041...analyses performed on those water quality samples throughout the year.

103,050...megawatt hours of electricity produced by the four hydroelectric facilities that are connected to part of the water supply.

7,041...feet mined by Nora, the tunnel boring machine that is currently driving the Delaware Aqueduct Bypass Tunnel under the Hudson River. Tunneling is now 56.6 percent complete.

Nearly 7,000 “Dig” Calls to BWS in 2018



Dig Safely New York was started in 1969 to promote “an easier and safer digging environment.” It gathers and distributes information about planned excavations—known as tickets—to underground utility operators. In 2017, DEP received 4,323 tickets about excavations in its east-of-Hudson watershed and 4,981 tickets in 2018. West of the Hudson River, DEP handles fewer tickets—1,972 in 2017 and 1,969 in 2018—most likely because of more open space in that watershed and less construction work. Gas line and water line repairs and utility pole installations are among the common instances for which DEP receives Dig Safely requests. For more information on Dig Safely New York, [click here](#).

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

In the News



The Staten Island Advance recently featured the [\\$28 million infrastructure project](#) that DEP and DDC are working on in the Travis section of Staten Island. “I am pleased to see shovels in the ground for this project, which is long overdue but critically necessary to alleviate the flooding that has continually plagued the homes and streets of Travis,” said Councilman **Steven Matteo** (R-Mid-Island). The project, expected to be completed in summer 2021, will upgrade water mains, as well as sanitary and storm sewers, while also constructing a Bluebelt wetland, also known as a Best Management Practice, to mitigate stormwater.

In the News



Yesterday, 19 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Director for Human Resources **Herb Roth**, Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott**, HR Specialist **Grace Franco**, and Recruitment Coordinator **Briana Lomax-Day**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Luis Abreu, and **Abigail Thomas** with BEDC; **Mohammed M. Alam**, **Phinda Q. Dlamini**, and **Yi Pan** with BEPA/Sustainability; **Andrew Sokolof** with BPAC; **Sun Hong Kim** with BPS ; **Ibrahim Abubakar**, **Hertzbert Casseus**, and **Tatiana Sangare** with BWSO; **William F. Casey** with BWT; **Riquelmer Salinas-Encinas** with Commissioner/OER; **Joseph R. Woods** with CDBG/HRO; **Rickardo A. Clarke**, **Darrell Hammett**, **Christopher G. Isaacs**, **Ghassan Khuzam**, and **Narinder Singh** with CS; and **Makula Donzo** with FDC/Executive.



This month, DEP is celebrating our value of service. If you know someone who embodies this value, please send an email by February 19th to values@dep.nyc.gov, and include the name of who you are nominating, their bureau, and a brief description of how they embody this value.