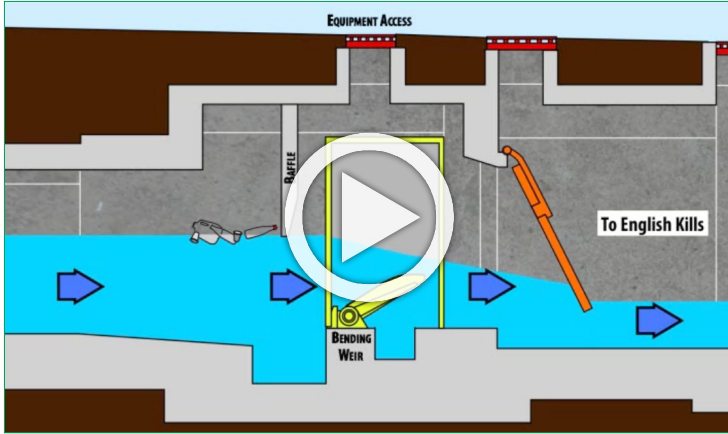


Sneak Peek



Later this year, DEP will break ground on a \$30 million project to construct litter control devices in four outfalls along Newtown Creek that will prevent tons of trash and debris from reaching the creek. Much of the trash and debris found in New York Harbor, and its connected waterways, originates as litter discarded on City streets that gets washed into the sewer system. In 2013, DEP completed a similar litter control project at outfalls along the Bronx River and those devices have already helped prevent more than 230 tons of debris and trash from reaching the river. To see how one type of litter control device planned for Newtown Creek will work, click the above video.

Spotlight on Safety

Flammable Cabinets

Many of DEP's facilities store flammable liquids onsite and precautions must be taken to prevent fires and explosions. One of those precautions is to store flammable liquids in flammable storage cabinets and containers.

Flammable storage cabinets must follow these guidelines:

- Cabinets must meet OSHA's design, construction and capacity requirements at [CFR 1910.106\(d\)\(3\)](#)
- Cabinets must be labeled "Flammable—Keep Fire Away."
- No more than 60 gallons of category 1, 2, or 3 flammable

liquid or 120 gallons of Class 4 flammable liquid may be placed in a single flammable cabinet.

- Suitable fire control devices, such as a portable fire extinguisher, must be made available at locations where flammable liquids are stored.

Flammables should never be stored in or near designated smoking areas or when using open flames or spark-producing devices. Additional requirements may be found in state and local fire codes.

For more information, visit [OSHA's Flammable and Combustible Liquids Reference](#).

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.

Special Guest Commissioner's Corner

Paul Rush, DEP's Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Water Supply, is a guest commentator this week.

DEP deals with water at practically every stage.

We collect water in vast reservoirs, convey water more than 100 miles through massive aqueducts, distribute water through a web of pipes, collect wastewater and stormwater through more pipes and process it at wastewater plants before giving that water back to the rivers, harbors and ocean.

But across our 1.2-million-acre watershed we're also dealing with water before it falls from the sky. A dedicated team of experts and dozens of monitoring devices track the weather hour-by-hour to understand when, where, how much and in what form precipitation will fall around our reservoirs.

This complex work includes monitoring and analyzing forecasts that predict precipitation, temperature, humidity, wind, cloud cover, stream flow and more. In combination, these factors determine how much water enters our reservoirs every day.

The forecasts—produced mostly by our partners at the National Weather Service—benefit from a network of weather monitoring equipment in the watershed that DEP has established over the years. The Bureau of Water Supply (BWS) gathers data from more than 60 monitoring stations that are positioned atop mountains in the Catskills, alongside many of our reservoirs and elsewhere throughout the watershed. Data collected by these stations are sent back to the National Weather Service to inform their forecasting.

This work is particularly important during winter, but also tricky. Important because melting snow comprises a large portion of water that enters our reservoirs



during the critical refill season. Decades of historic records show that melting snow and the rains that accompanied it accounted for more than 580 billion gallons of runoff entering our reservoirs in the Catskills from November to May each year. The demand for water in New York City last year was 363.6 billion gallons.

But winter also poses challenges for those who monitor the weather and operate the water supply system. Not all precipitation yields the same outcomes in winter. A cold rain on bare, frozen ground can cause billions of gallons to run into our reservoirs quickly. But the same rain on ground covered in snow might be absorbed and cause no immediate runoff into the reservoirs.

We also pay close attention because quick snowmelts and large storms can introduce turbidity into our reservoirs and potentially cause flooding in the communities that surround them. By using the best forecasts along with data from our snow monitoring stations—known as "snow pillows"—BWS has helped to reduce the impact of natural turbidity and minimize the potential for floods by releasing water from our reservoirs and making room for the snowmelt.

The careful tracking of weather before, during and after storms goes to the heart of our mission: making sure there is a sufficient quantity of excellent water for the millions who rely on us every day.

Out of the Archives



Workers making “soundings” for rock alongside the Catskill Aqueduct in Butternutville, NY in December 1906. These soundings gathered information about the rock and soil beneath the surface and helped to guide the design and construction of New York City’s water supply system.

Press Box



“The City Department of Environmental Protection has finished a renovation that slashes the amount of nitrogen the Jamaica Wastewater Treatment Plant pumps into the bay... The environmental watchdog group Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers praised the progress, saying its members have already noticed less algae and clearer water.”

Read the entire Daily News article [here](#).

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

Kudos Corner



The recently completed mile-long Diverting Reservoir Trail in the town of Southeast is off to a great start in 2015 thanks, in part, to Kenny Hauser of Boy Scout Troop 440 in Patterson, N.Y. Hauser took on the task of building and installing an information kiosk and several benches along the newly opened recreation trail for his Eagle Scout Service Project. Prior to its opening in August 2014, members of Boy Scout Troop 440, along with volunteers from the Putnam County Land Trust, Concerned Residents of Southeast (CRSE), and the Southeast Highway Department, cleaned and cleared the trail. The work included the removal of old tires and other debris, along with invasive plants such as barberry and knotweed. CRSE currently maintains the trail, which is open to the public free of charge.

From the Land of the Rising Sun



Japan has been aggressively building solar projects—close to 11 gigawatts in two years—in the wake of the decision to dismantle its nuclear plants following the Fukushima disaster. Now the country is even looking beyond land for places to install solar panels. A new 13.4 megawatt floating solar panel farm will be built on top of the Yamakura Dam reservoir in Chiba prefecture in Japan. [Click here](#) to read more.