

**Special Guest** *Commissioner's Corner*



**Pam Elardo**  
Deputy Commissioner  
Wastewater Treatment

Last week, DEP announced the start of construction on a \$67 million comprehensive energy efficiency upgrade at our Hunts Point Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) in the south Bronx. As part of the improvement, 16 new energy efficient centrifuges will be installed and will consume 60 percent less electricity and process 25 percent more material than the older

models. This operational efficiency is great for the Bureau, the Department and The City as it will bring us closer to our sustainability goals by avoiding the release of 826 metric tons of greenhouse gases every year, saving energy and creating an annual savings of more than \$1.7 million. DEP is providing the funding for the work and the New York Power Authority (NYPA) is implementing the upgrades, which are expected to be completed in 2020.

The operations staff at the Hunts Point WRRF clean more than 200

*Spotlight on Safety*

**Leading With Safety**

Next week is DEP's Safety Week: Leading With Safety! OEHS has been communicating safety materials during the last couple of weeks during National Safety Month (NSM) in order to encourage employees to share with their coworkers and families, and to inspire safety leadership. This includes at work, home and on the road.

The purpose of Safety Week is to communicate to employees DEP's overarching goal of building a strong agency-wide EHS culture. This is just one step towards motivating employees to participate and recognize the importance of being active in safety leadership. Recognizing that hazards exist and taking steps to reduce them is also an example of leading with safety. Therefore, it is important to report safety concerns to your supervisor or bureau EHS representative; not reporting can lead to even greater hazards.

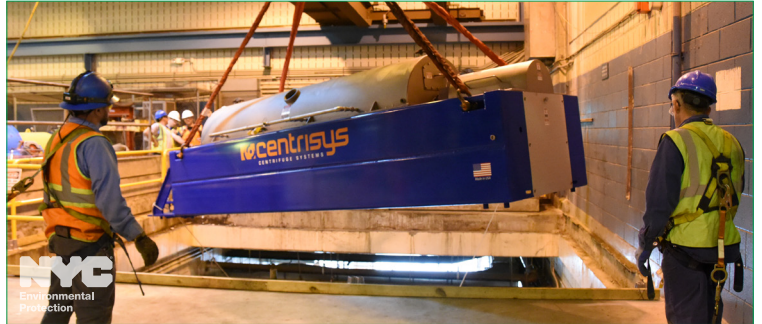
According to the National Safety Council (NSC), there are 4 signs of a thriving safety culture:

- a workforce that's engaged and committed
- employees who are empowered to identify and eliminate safety concerns
- supervisors who listen to and investigate employee concerns
- management that insists on long-term solutions not quick fixes

When you promote a safe environment, it encourages others to want to do the same, creating safer lives for everyone. While there can be safety leaders, overall safety is a team effort - the goal is to engage others to encourage that effort and work together!

For more information visit NSC'S Safety & Health magazine article on [Safety Leadership: 11 Characteristics of Great Safety Performers](#).

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.



million gallons of wastewater from nearly 700,000 residents in the Bronx every day of the year. Their work is essential to protect public health and the environment, which requires a great deal of electrical power. We're excited to partner with NYPA to install these new centrifuges to save energy, reduce our carbon footprint, and improve air quality, while at the same time lowering operating costs.

Centrifuges are used in the wastewater solids treatment process of dewatering, which follows solids anaerobic digestion and is just prior to removal of the dewatered "cake" from the Facility. Each centrifuge is a workhorse, containing a cylindrical bowl rotating at a high speed and a scroll rotating on the same axis with a slightly different speed (known as "the differential"). This utilizes centrifugal forces to separate water from the solids within seconds, allowing the resultant biosolids to be transported more efficiently by truck or rail. The sludge entering the centrifuge have a consistency of coffee (approximately 2% solid) and exit with a consistency of wet soil (approximately 26% solid).

The Hunts Point WRRF staff operate 13 existing centrifuges and this project will replace them with 16 new energy efficient models. As a 24/7 operating facility, BWT will of course be challenged to continue operation of the plant throughout the duration of the construction, so the operations staff will remove the older centrifuges and replace them in groups of four. Ancillary

equipment, including sludge and polymer feed pumps with associated instrumentation and controls, will be replaced as well.



This is a very comprehensive dewatering systems replacement project. The project comes with a new operator's computer workstation complete with an online solids monitoring system and new motor control center. Extensive piping and the many specialized pumps, valves, and other wastewater equipment that work in direct support of the centrifuges are also included. Additionally, the plant will also benefit from more energy efficient upgrades to lighting in the centrifuge room, the control room, the conveyor room, and the polymer bulk storage area.

I'd like to thank BWT's Engineering Division for this work, specifically: **Manuel Velasquez** (Project Manager), **Ian Anderson** (Mechanical Engineering Section Chief) and **Joe Olewnicki** (Division Chief) as well as **Steve Winrock** (Plant Chief) and **Pete Pignelli** (Facility Manager) from the Hunts Point WRRF.

## Baby Bird Rescued from Catch Basin



Kudos to **Joe Anzueta** and **Severino Napolitano**, both of BWSO, for going beyond the call of duty on June 6 and rescuing a baby sparrow from a Queens catch basin. Joe and Severino responded to the corner of 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 195<sup>th</sup> Lane in Fresh Meadows and immediately spotted the bird in distress at the bottom of a catch basin. They removed the grate and successfully retrieved the bird which was floating on a piece of debris, much to the relief of a concerned passerby. Way to go guys!



## Safety Week Slated for Next Week

After a successful Safety Day event in 2017, DEP will be hosting its very first Safety Week this year which will take place from June 25 to June 29. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) has organized this event with the theme of Leading With Safety. Safety Week is open to all employees and aims to bring awareness to the importance of safety at work, home, and on the road.

June is also National Safety Month, and OEHS will be communicating safety related information, educational opportunities, and contests throughout the month. DEP will culminate National Safety Month with several activities throughout the last week in June, including Downsville's Safety Week event on Tuesday, June 26 and Lefrak's Safety Week event on Friday, June 29. For more information about this year's Safety Week, please visit the new OEHS Portal site's [Safety Week page](#). Supervisor approval is needed to attend all events taking place outside of your lunch hour. The keynote presentation on June 29 can also be accessed through Webex.

## Brooklyn Students Release Trout



DEP joined last Tuesday with Trout Unlimited and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students from Brooklyn's P.S. 250 George H. Lindsay to release juvenile trout that the students have raised in their classrooms since October of last year. Fingerlings were released into the Cross River where it passes through the Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Westchester County before feeding into New York City's Cross River Reservoir.

## Kudos Corner



Congratulations to Assistant Commissioner **Mario Bruno**, BPAC, for being honored with the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation Public Service Award during the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual SI Green & Clean Festival, held June 7 at the Staten Island Zoo. Mario was also a featured panelist in a discussion focusing on "New Frontiers in a Sustainable Staten Island." The seminar featured industry professionals and academic experts talking about local initiatives to address resiliency including stormwater management, Bluebelts, zoning changes, new construction requirements, and how business can better understand the complex world of post-Sandy development and operations.

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