

Commissioner's Corner



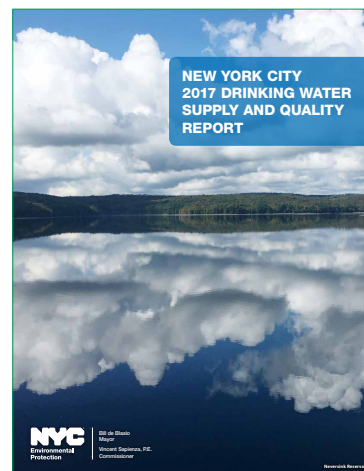
I am pleased to present DEP's [2017 Drinking Water Supply and Quality Report](#), which contains important information about the drinking water for nearly half the

State's population. I am proud that we continue to deliver more than 1 billion gallons of clean and delicious drinking water to nearly 10 million people every day.

DEP marked several noteworthy achievements for New York City's water supply in 2017. One of the most important was securing a new, 10-year Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) for the City's Catskill and Delaware water supplies. This important permit allows DEP to deliver 90 percent of the city's drinking water without filtration. It also outlines a number of programs to keep our water clean at its source in

the Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains. These science-based programs in the FAD are rooted in the premise that it is most cost effective and environmentally sound to protect water at its natural source. The new filtration waiver is an endorsement of our programs, which are considered a worldwide model for protecting drinking water and the natural resources that preserve its quality. As part of the new FAD, DEP will commit an estimated \$1 billion over the next decade to continue and expand many of these watershed initiatives.

To ensure that these programs keep the water clean, DEP scientists collect water samples 365 days a year from our expansive reservoir system, the aqueducts that deliver the water to the city, and the roughly 1,000 street-side sampling stations spread across the five boroughs. Those water samples are delivered to one of DEP's four state-of-the-art laboratories where scientists analyze them more than 600,000 times annually. Robotic monitoring buoys deployed on the reservoirs provide an additional 1.2 million measurements that help us send the best water to the city at all times. The data from this extensive scientific analysis, which is outlined in the report, demonstrate that the City's water meets or exceeds all health and safety regulations.



Keeping our water system in a state of good repair requires substantial investments. Last year we announced a \$750 million program to upgrade nearly all the infrastructure at Ashokan Reservoir. The largest and most complex repair in the history of the water supply system, the \$1 billion construction of the Delaware Aqueduct bypass tunnel, is on schedule as a tunnel boring machine has begun its work under the Hudson River.

You will find details about these investments and infrastructure projects, as well as others, within the report. On behalf of the nearly 6,000 employees at DEP, I am proud to present this report to the nearly 10 million New Yorkers who rely on us to deliver safe, clean, high-quality drinking water every day.

Spotlight on Safety

Workplace Eye Wellness Month

According to the Centers for Disease Control, each day about 2,000 U.S. workers sustain a job-related eye injury that requires medical treatment. March is Workplace Eye Wellness Month, which is recognized by the Prevent Blindness organization.

With an increased amount of "screen time" due to the use of smart phones and tablets, it is more important than ever to protect yourself from eye strain if you work at a computer. Arrange your workspace in such a way that prevents glare on your computer screen. Removing dust or using a glare filter can also help. Give your eyes a rest with the "20-20-20 break"; every 20 minutes, take a 20-second break and look at something 20 feet away. Additionally, employees who

work 20 hours or more on a computer should take a 15-minute alternative work break after 2 consecutive hours.

When working out in the field you can protect yourself from eye injury by using appropriate eye or face protection, such as safety glasses, goggles and shields, when exposed to hazards such as flying particles, dust, molten metal, harmful liquids, and chemical gases or vapors. Diseases can also be transmitted through the mucous membrane in the eye, such as through blood splashes or droplets from sneezing and coughing. Avoid touching your eyes with contaminated hands to prevent spread of infection or irritation.

For more information, visit the [Prevent Blindness website](#) and [DEP's Ergonomics Policy](#).

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.



A Note from the Chief Admin Officer



On behalf of Commissioner Sapienza and myself, I am pleased to announce two new appointments to DEP's Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity, effective immediately. **Danielle Barrett** (pictured above) is the new Assistant Commissioner for EEO and Diversity, and **Darlene Martinez** is the new Director of Diversity. They succeed Martha Osenni and Tanika Thomas, respectively.

Danielle is a certified diversity executive with more than 10 years of combined experience in labor and employment litigation, training development and program management. Prior to coming to DEP, she served as Executive Director of Training and Diversity Management at the NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services, where she was responsible for managing the City's EEO, diversity and training programs and initiatives, developing Citywide procedures, and investigating complex complaints brought under the City's EEO Policy. Prior to that, Danielle served as Associate Director of EEO and Affirmative Action at NYC Health + Hospitals and Assistant Corporation Counsel at the NYC Law Department. She holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University at Buffalo Law School, a Bachelor of Arts in Justice Studies and minor degrees in Forensic Psychology and English Honors from John Jay College of Criminal Justice where she graduated Summa Cum Laude.

Darlene Martinez comes to DEP with 13 years of experience in increasingly responsible roles within Human Resources and EEO. Darlene began her career in City government in 2005 as a paralegal with the Kings County District Attorney's Office. In 2007, she accepted a position with the Business Integrity Commission and was later promoted to Equal Employment Officer. In 2009, she was appointed Director of Human Resources, where she was responsible for overseeing all aspects of HR, which included payroll, timekeeping, employee benefits, and recruitment, promotions, separations, training and labor relations. In her most recent position, as Diversity Officer with the City Department of Correction, Darlene partnered with HR, Recruitment and the Commissioner's Performance Management Operations units to recruit, develop and retain a diverse, qualified group of applicants, was responsible for coordinating diversity events and workshops, and ensuring that posts were awarded fairly within a command. Darlene received her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from John Jay College School of Criminal Justice. She resides in Bronx, NY with her husband and two sons.

Danielle can be reached at 718-595-3432 or by email at dbarrett@dep.nyc.gov. Darlene can be reached at 718-595-5742 or at dmartinez@dep.nyc.gov. Please join us in welcoming Danielle and Darlene to DEP!

Wait Program Expansion



DEP is expanding the [Wait Program](#) that asks residents to voluntarily reduce their water use during rainstorms in order to help protect the health of local waterway. The expansion is targeted at residents from northwest Brooklyn to eastern Queens, including the neighborhoods of Greenpoint and Astoria to Bushwick and Forest Hills. By voluntarily reducing the use of water during rain events, residents in these areas can help to reduce pollution in Newtown Creek, Bowery Bay, Flushing Creek and Flushing Bay. DEP is the first water utility in the United States to pilot this type of program, which is modeled on a successful initiative administered by the Newtown Creek Alliance. This innovative approach to creating additional capacity in the combined sewer system and reducing overflows was recently highlighted by an article in the [New York Times](#).

Culvert Cleaning Aids in Storm Prep



To prepare for last week's Nor'easter, DEP crews were dispatched to clean out catch basins and other infrastructure to ensure that the sewer system was prepared to handle the flow of heavier-than-usual rainwater. On Staten Island, **John Milazzo** and **Scott Lepre** of BWSO Staten Island Maintenance cleaned out the Sweet Brook culvert, which helps manage stormwater from the Sweet Brook Bluebelt watershed in Eltingville.

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