

## Double 'Cross'ing a Water Shortage



Last month the department completed a \$17.8 million upgrade to the Cross River Pumping Station that has more than doubled its capacity to pump water from the Croton Watershed to the Delaware Aqueduct. The pumping station, located in Katonah, N.Y. in Westchester County, pumps water from the Cross River Reservoir and will allow DEP to maximize Croton water during times of drought in the Delaware water-

shed, as well as act as a supplemental source during the upcoming shutdown and repair of the Rondout-West Branch portion of the Delaware Aqueduct. The extensive rehabilitation work, which began in 2009, has increased the facility's pumping capacity from 27 million gallons a day to 60 million gallons a day.

The original Cross River pumping station was constructed in

(Continued on reverse side)

## Spotlight on Safety

### Stepping Up for Safety

DEP's injury incidence rate is about 30% below the industry average and in order to drive this number down even further we are focusing on the most common type of employee injury—falls. Whether it's performing security inspections or retrieving tools, employees frequently are required to enter and exit work vehicles or the beds of work trucks. Falling from a vehicle can be a costly and serious accident and can result in significant missed time from work.

Follow a few simple guidelines to help avoid these type of accidents:

- Always face the vehicle when entering and exiting.
- Use the three-point rule—keep two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand in contact with the vehicle at all times.
- Use the mounting handles and stepping surfaces.
- Make sure stepping surfaces and work shoes are free of mud, oil, and ice.
- Never jump from a truck, and make sure areas on the ground and in the truck bed are free of loose debris, wires/cords, tools, and other tripping hazards.

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



I am happy to announce that tomorrow I will kick off *The DEP Experience*—our agency's new, monthly brown bag presentation series—with a talk about the extraordinary efforts of DEP employees before, during, and after Hurricane Sandy. *The DEP Experience*, organized by Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development **Diana Jones Ritter**, will introduce you to the breadth of innovative projects taking place across DEP, as well as the people behind them.

This first brown bag presentation will be held in the 3rd floor cafeteria at DEP's Lefrak Headquarters from 12:00-1:00pm on Wednesday, February 27, and will be broadcast live to Valhalla, Grahamsville, and Kingston. For those of you who can't make it to one of these locations, the presentation will also be posted on SharePoint in the coming days. I encourage everyone to bring their lunch and join me for what will be an engaging and informative discussion about DEP's response to Hurricane Sandy.

Over the last 12 years, DEP has made the largest investment in water supply and wastewater systems of any U.S. city, and we are at the forefront of some of the most cutting edge initiatives in our industry. Last week, I had the opportunity to visit one such project taking place at the Rondout Reservoir. In a lab test, researchers at Syracuse University demonstrated that introducing lime and other chemicals into water flowing through concrete pipes can effectively seal hairline cracks and reduce leaks. Since

August, DEP has been testing this theory in a \$4 million proof of concept experiment at the Rondout Reservoir.

Inside a temporary structure on the southeast side of the Reservoir, water is being pumped through three 2,400-foot sections of 1.5-inch diameter pipe. Scientists are testing different flow rates to determine if the lime and other chemicals introduced into the pipes will seal cracks under conditions similar to those inside the Delaware Aqueduct.

The experiment is part of DEP's Water for the Future program, a series of initiatives to fix the leaking Delaware Aqueduct and ensure a clean drinking water supply for the nine million New Yorkers we serve. The Water for the Future program includes the construction of a 2.4-mile bypass tunnel around a portion of the aqueduct that is leaking in Rose-ton in Orange County, and repair work to sections that are leaking in Wawarsing in Ulster County. DEP plans to break ground on the bypass tunnel later this year, and expects to complete the connection to the Delaware Aqueduct in 2021. The tunnel repair program is expected to create between 1,000 and 1,500 jobs.

The lime experiment is just one example of the exciting projects DEP is working on. I hope you will join me at this week's *The DEP Experience* presentation and take advantage of the program in the months to come to learn more about the exciting projects that our colleagues are working on.



## Focus on the Field

For the past two decades **Mike Svoboda** has helped DEP deliver capital construction projects that are critical to the agency's mission. Svoboda, who graduated from Carmel High School and Manhattan College, began his career at DEP with the Bureau of Water Supply where he oversaw water main installations before he transferred to the Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction (BEDC).



As an Accountable Manager for BEDC's Water System Capital Programs Division, Svoboda currently oversees three reconstruction projects: the recently-completed Cross River Pumping Station, the Croton Falls Pumping Station, and the Sodom/Bog Brook Dam. This work includes ensuring that the projects remain on schedule, overseeing the Construction Managers, enforcing environmental, health and safety guidelines, expediting payment processing, and acting as a liaison between DEP and local stakeholders.

"Mike is very experienced in dealing with a variety of issues and personalities," said BEDC Portfolio Manager **Paul Smith**. "He is someone you can rely on to keep a job running as

smoothly as it can despite the inevitable obstacles."

"Over the past twenty years, BEDC has provided me with the opportunity to work on projects ranging from bridges and dams to wastewater treatment plants and water distribution networks," Svoboda said. "No other place, whether in the public or private sector, offers you the opportunity to work on so many different types of projects. The nature of each project I've worked on is very different, and required me to develop different skill sets—a challenging but exciting task."

Svoboda currently resides in Westchester County and enjoys cheering for his daughter who plays for the Ossining High School basketball team.

## Welcome Aboard



Yesterday 10 new employees attended orientation and were given an overview of the department by Chief Operating Officer **Kathryn Garcia**. As they begin their new assignments today we hope everyone will take a moment to say hello and welcome them to DEP!

**April E. Kelly**, **Jonathan Miller**, and **Cynthia Ward** with BWT; **Anthony Garigliano** and **John Sullivan** with BWS; **Deneen A. Davis** and **Allison Phillips** with BCS; **Anthony Gorman** with BWSO; **Helen Li** with OIT; and **Leah McWilliams** with BCIA.

## DEP March Blood Drive

The Greater New York Blood Program is experiencing a serious shortage due to a fall-off in donations. To help ensure that blood will be available to those who need it, beginning next week DEP will be hosting a blood drive at the below locations and times:

**Kingston/Catskill Area:** 51 Albany Avenue, 3/4 and 3/11, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm; **Grahamsville Region Area:** Grahamsville Parking Lot, 3/6 – 3/7, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; **Downsville Region Area:** Downsville Fire Hall, 3/6, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm; **Lefrak:** 3rd Floor Cafeteria, 3/12–3/14, 7:45 am to 1:30 pm; **Kensico/Highland Regions-Sutton Park Area:** Sutton Park—2nd Floor, 3/14, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm.

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tends from the Cross River valve chamber at the base of the dam has now been converted into a suction line to feed water to the three new pumps. In addition to the installation of the pump system, the project included demolition of the previous Cross River Pumping Station.

The upgrade project also included installation of new state-of-the-art instrumentation and electronic control systems, construction of a new substation by New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG), and a new, buried electrical duct bank between the substation and the pumping station. There were also modifications to the existing 48-inch force main, installation of a new HVAC system, demolition of the old electrical substation, removal and replacement of the outdated electrical system, site improvements and restoration of the site access driveways, and installation of piping to provide as much as two million gallons of water a day to the Town of Bedford.

the late 1940s and was located at the base of the Cross River Dam. The pump was driven by a hydraulic turbine that turned the pump and pressurized the delivery of water from the Reservoir to the Aqueduct. As part of the upgrade, the original hydraulically-driven pump was replaced with three higher-capacity, electric pumps. Electrification will permit the pumping station to operate over a wider range of capacities and conditions, and eliminates the previous loss of water due to the hydraulic turbines. The existing 48-inch force main that ex-

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