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Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Carter Strickland, Commissioner

WEEKLY

PIPELINE

EXTRA

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DEP Employees of the Month for May 2012

In recognition of June as National Safety Month, DEP has dedicated the May Employee of the Month awards and our June ceremony to employees who have made significant contributions to advancing Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) in their unit, bureau or the agency as a whole. The criteria for selection were:

- An employee who consistently demonstrated through measurable EHS performance a sustained commitment to EHS excellence in his/her workplace, division, bureau, or agency as a whole; and/or
- An employee who contributed a specific idea or suggestion that resulted in improving safety or environmental compliance in his/her workplace, division, bureau or agency as a whole.

DEP is a great agency that delivers services that millions of New Yorkers depend on daily. Making good on that daily promise requires the dedication and hard work of the nearly 6,000 employees. To nominate someone who has demonstrated uncommon dedication and excellence, fill out the nomination form with basic information such as the nominee's responsibilities, examples of extraordinary performance, and ways candidates set an example for others. The form is available on Pipeline, and must be submitted by the tenth day of each month. For more information, email Herb Roth at hroth@dep.nyc.gov.

The Employees of the Month for May were honored at a breakfast on June 27th with Commissioner Strickland, received a certificate, and had their names added to the Employee of the Month Board on the 3rd and 19th floors at the Lefrak and Kingston offices. These men and women set a standard for all of us to emulate and appreciate.



Human Resources and Administration/Fleet Services - **Laddie VanderMaas**

Laddie began his career at DEP in February 1986 and currently serves as a Supervisor of Mechanics. Most recently, Laddie was instrumental in retrofitting several agency vehicles to run on Compressed Natural Gas. The vehicles had to be fitted with fuel tanks specially designed to handle the pressures associated with running on natural gas; modifications had to be made to the fuel delivery system as well as integrating the electronic controls with the vehicles' existing electrical systems. He was successful in meeting all mandated goals associated with this project. As a mechanic, Laddie possesses great skills in vehicle diagnostics and engine performance.

In 2007, Laddie was assigned the responsibility for ensuring Fleet Services' compliance with EHS policies and procedures. He has done a tremendous job!

Laddie provides guidance to Fleet staff on the safe operation and use of machinery, equipment and automotive parts. He also provides in-house training from modules provided by the Office of Training and Development. Working in a Fleet environment has made him acutely aware of the importance of knowing and following safety rules, regulations, and practices.



Environmental Compliance - **George Anakhu**

George began his career with DEP in January 1986 in the Drinking Water Quality Control Laboratory and later conducted safety training for all laboratory employees. From there, he took up new responsibilities in the Hazardous Material Laboratory and proved to be a valuable part of the team by managing critical air sampling in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks. He currently serves as a scientist and operates the Inductive Coupled Plasma/Mass Spectrometer. It could be said that George is DEP's "Gadget Guru," performing tests to determine the elemental composition of hazardous materials samples. He conducts tests for metals such as lead, barium, and cadmium in solid wastes as well as air testing samples for hazardous asbestos fibers during emergencies.

George also looks out for the safety of his fellow workers by serving as the fire warden for the 6th floor low rise building for the past 10 years.



Water and Sewer Operations - **Nicole Blake**

Nicole began her career at DEP in November, 2003 and currently serves as an Industrial Hygienist/Safety Officer in the bureau. Nicole works in the bureau's shaft maintenance section.

In 2011, shaft maintenance operations was included among the units that switched to a new work order database. Nicole volunteered to go through the training to learn about work orders, preventive maintenance, and inventory maintenance applicable to EHS. She quickly learned how the system worked and became the go-to person for this training. She successfully trained all of the shaft maintenance supervisors and several engineers on how to use the system. In addition, she played a key role in populating the new system with data. Nicole has also voluntarily acquired and maintained an Asbestos Handler Supervisor license. This license allows her to oversee contractor asbestos abatement projects involving sensitive and/or one-of-a-kind shaft maintenance operations equipment. During the last agency assessment of shaft maintenance headquarters, no negative findings were identified—down from the 16 findings during the previous assessment. This was largely due to Nicole's hard work and dedication in making sure the bureau complies with all applicable EHS rules and regulations.



Wastewater Treatment - **William Haberland**

William (Bill) began his career with DEP in February, 1980 and retired at the end of May after more than 30 years with the agency. For the past 15 years, even before the agency initiated an official EHS program, Bill has been at the forefront of safety for BWT. Together with his Safety and Training staff, they implemented a wide range of safety training programs, including an emergency procedure manual which standardized what Operations staff were required to do in emergencies. The manual detailed protocol for constructing an intricate confined space simulator and training procedures for bureau staff on confined space entry. The manual also developed a respiratory protection program and an annual field safety training program.



Water Supply - **Steve Copepy**

Steve began his career with DEP in February 2006 and currently serves as the EHS Coordinator for Watershed Lands & Community Planning within the Watershed Protection Programs Directorate. He has more than 16 years of experience in the field of EHS, and currently works with a wide range of contractors from both government agencies and private enterprise. He is responsible for the development and monitoring of safe work plans on a diverse range of projects, from stream bank stabilization to building demolition, and to logging operations in environmentally sensitive areas. Steve's outstanding work has become well known throughout the bureau as he has been involved with facility audits. A natural leader, Steve has the unique ability to gain the trust and respect of both co-workers and contractors alike. His energy and professionalism are a true asset to the Bureau.

Commissioner's Award:



Office of Environmental Health and Safety's Training Development Team

The DEP Training Development Team comprises three main divisions: Training Systems Administration, Remote Learning, and Training Development and Administration. These divisions are responsible for the coordination, development, administration and tracking of all training functions throughout the agency. Their primary objective is to achieve and maintain the training goals set forth in *Strategy 2011-2014*. The teams that worked on the development and implementation of the new training system (TTRS), successfully launched in-house computer based training and brought high quality classroom training into DEP to keep employees current with their licensing and certification requirements. The following people are all recognized for their hard work, passion and dedication to these critical projects that are making DEP the model of excellence in the field: **Doreen J. Johann, Edi Hernandez, Robert Rios, Kevin Moore, Sabrina Sjaastad, Jennifer Bishop, Riyu Azumaya, Lorna Lettman, Martin Dolgow and Brenda Thompson**. They should all be commended for a job well done!