

BEDC Designs Innovative Safety Plan



With more than \$11 billion in active construction contracts and \$3 billion in planning and design contracts under its management, the Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction (BEDC) is committed to promoting safety and operations efficiency by enlisting support from its staff, consultants and contractors.

One of its newer initiatives, the BEDC Environmental, Health and Safety Management System, grew out of the DEP Strategic Plan goal to “run the safest operations and capital program in the country with the best environmental compliance record of any large water and wastewater utility.” The system is founded

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Spotlight on Safety

Labeling Our Chemicals

Chemical use directly affects our lives, health, lifestyle, food, and the environment. In order to manage chemicals safely it is important to have information on their hazardous properties, recommended control measures, transport, use, and proper disposal.

The Globally Harmonized System (GHS) provides a standardized classification and labeling of chemicals across the world. GHS provides the foundation for countries to develop comprehensive national programs to ensure the safe use of chemicals. It also provides for the coordination of rules and regulations on chemicals at the national, regional, and international level.

Because chemical use, handling, and transport is so prevalent in international commerce, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is moving toward implementation of GHS in the United States.

Even though existing laws and regulations regarding chemical use are similar from country to country, there are differences that impact communications in defining hazards, labeling of chemicals, and material safety data sheets. It has been determined that this harmonization action will become the foundation of a program that will enhance the protection of human health and the environment.

OSHA's proposal would amend its hazard communications guidelines to align with GHS. OSHA's adoption of GHS will promote development or modification of existing programs that address classification of hazards and transmittal of information about hazards and protective measures. The plan is for staggered implementation over a three-year period beginning in 2013. The change to GHS will impact national regulatory systems, employee training, material safety data sheets, and workplace labeling.

Commissioner's Corner

In 2011, DEP released Strategy 2011-2014, a far-reaching blueprint to transform DEP into the safest, most transparent, efficient and cost-effective water utility in the nation. This ambitious plan laid out 29 broad goals to achieve this mission and 100 discrete initiatives to measure our success. In so clearly communicating these benchmarks, we knew that we were providing the public with a ready tool to hold us accountable—a test which became even more acute in the face of the back-to-back challenges of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Despite these tests, 2011 marked a banner year of progress toward the goals of Strategy 2011-2014—proof positive that DEP's nearly 6,000 person workforce is second to none.

Last Thursday, we released the plan's 2011 Progress Report, which documented 63 initiatives that were either fully or partially achieved during the first year alone while an additional 36 are on track for completion on schedule. We made notable improvements in the areas of operations and capital, worker safety, and sustainability: we certified that the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant is meeting Clean Water Act standards a full two years ahead of schedule; opened 6,765 acres of watershed land for recreational use while also expanding boating access to the Neversink, Pepacton and Schoharie Reservoirs; developed new Employee Health and Safety metrics, yielding a 42% reduction in recordable workplace illness and injury; reached preliminary agreement (since finalized) on a landmark consent agreement with DEC to formally integrate the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan into Clean Water Act compliance, while also establishing an Office of Green Infrastructure to oversee implementation and awarding \$3.8 million in Green



Infrastructure Grants; and began extensive outreach to businesses and communities throughout the five boroughs to begin comprehensive revisions to the Air and Noise Codes. Most importantly, DEP made critical improvements to customer service. We launched a Leak Notification program to alert customers to abnormal spikes in water consumption; already, this program is estimated to have saved rate-payers more than \$10 million. Additionally, we issued a Request for Proposals to provide a protection plan for water and sewer service line ruptures—insurance to help alleviate financial duress resulting from unanticipated costly repairs.

Our effort to save customers money wherever possible made news on another front last week: early next year, we'll begin a rebate program providing \$125 to landlords and customers who replace their old toilets with higher-efficiency models. An older toilet can use up to five gallons of water for every flush, while high-efficiency toilets use only 1.28 gallons. By replacing roughly 800,000 low-efficiency toilets, we can reduce water consumption by 30 million gallons per day, a needed 3% total reduction.

The rebate program will be conducted as an element of Water for the Future, contributing a needed consumption reduction in the years leading up to the temporary shutdown of the Delaware Aqueduct for repair. The \$125 rebate will cover all or most of the cost of a typical toilet. Saving money and saving water—it's tough to get more efficient and cost-effective than that.

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.

Focus on the Field



In his 12 years at DEP, Chief of Staff for Operations **Anthony Fiore** has shown a knack for diving into transformative projects and driving them through to successful completion. Now with a crucial leadership position in Operational Excellence: The Best Always Do Better (OpX) fully underway, Anthony is in the midst of his next great challenge.

With a background in biological sciences and public health, Anthony arrived at DEP in 1999 and immediately set to work developing a new microbiology lab at the New Croton Reservoir, which was completed and certified in less than a year. He then moved on to EHS, where he helped the program develop the exceptional performance standards it achieves today, playing a vital role in DEP being relieved from

probation by the US Department of Justice. Anthony's next stop at BWS was as a Regional Manager for East-of-Hudson Operations, a position from which he ascended to chief of the unit. In that role, he managed all aqueducts, reservoirs and treatment facilities in the Croton Watershed.

His work on the regulatory structure of chlorination led to working directly with then Commissioner Emily Lloyd, who brought Anthony to work for her as Director of Enforcement Policy for BCS. With DEP facing roughly \$650 million owed in arrears, Anthony directed the effort that eventually became the lien sale program. Together with partners across city agencies, Anthony spearheaded a safety net program to offer payment relief to some of New York's most vulnerable residents.

"That was probably one of my most fulfilling moments, hearing from customers and advocates for customers that this program helped," Anthony said. "It was great to hear."

Outside the office, Anthony is an avid nature photographer and enjoys scuba diving—fitting for someone consistently ready to dive in to any challenge.

Kodak Moment



DEP Senior Forester **Fred Gliesing** was part of a Kodak moment five years ago during a timber cleanup at the Ashokan Reservoir basin on New York City-owned land. Following a bad storm, a DEP timber harvesting contractor was clearing a large section of uprooted trees when he encountered a mother bear with her three cubs in a den under a pile of trees. After hearing from the contractor, Fred worked with DEP staff and DEC wildlife biologists in relocating the bears. The biologists tranquilized the mother bear and the team moved her and the cubs to a new home, another bear den under a tree pile about ¼ mile away. A tracking collar was attached to the adult bear for monitoring. The family survived the move and the remainder of the winter, and the storm damage cleanup was completed.

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DEP BLOOD DRIVE TOTALS: DEP employees donated a total of 598 pints of blood during the March blood drive – with Sutton Park collecting a record 72 pints for their location. DEP also added 50 employees to the Bone Marrow Registry. Thanks to everyone for a successful drive.

Milestones

Congratulations to the following employees: **Iris Ojdanic**, ACCO, on 38 years of service; **Alan Wasserman**, ACCO, on 37 years of service; **Peter Faiello**, BWT, 35 years of service; **Lourdes Martinez**, BEDC, **Vincent Masullo**, BEC, **Irina Veytsman**, BWSO, **Sam Somerville**, HRA, **Ricardo Orengo**, BEDC, 32 years of service; **Richard Quick**, BWSO, 31 years of service and **Larry Walker**, BCS, **George Malacos**, BWT, **Frances Patutuo**, CFO, 30 years of service.

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on the continuous improvement model using the Organization of International Standards Environmental Management Systems as a framework, which is recognized as a gold standard for these types of systems. It is also based on the American National Standards Institute safety based guidance program that looks to eliminate and mitigate safety hazards. BEDC is embarking on uncharted territory since no other municipality has built a management system that addresses both safety and environmental risks.

Communication and positive reinforcement are key elements of a successful EHS management system. At a recent communication event, BEDC Deputy Commissioner **Kathryn Mallon** and Director of EHS Compliance **Heather Belovin** presented Certificates of EHS Excellence to BEDC Accountable Manager **Emory Chase**, Construction Manager and Resident Engineer **Todd Yanoff**, Construction Manager and Site Safety Officer **Earl Alberti**, and BEDC EHS Regional Manager **Chris Igoe**. The contractor team—**Aaron Rietveld**, **Brad Zambri**, **Craig Valente** and **Robert Gilchrist**—from the joint venture of Barnard/D.A. Collins also received awards for EHS Excellence.

These staff members are involved in the Gilboa Dam project, a \$350 million project to rebuild the 92-year old concrete Gilboa Dam in Schoharie County in upstate New York. The Gilboa Dam is a vital component of New York City's water supply system which provides roughly 40% of the city's water supply. To protect the downstream communities, the reconstructed dam will have an enhanced capacity to safely release water in the event of a dam safety emergency.

A safety emergency situation occurred during Hurricane Irene last August. Constant communications was the game plan for the Gilboa Dam project during Hurricane Irene. The adverse conditions forced a shutdown of operations at the reservoir dam rebuilding project. Because of exceptional teamwork and communications and coordination under extreme conditions, the team has been recognized for their extraordinary efforts in shutting down and restarting operations in a safe manner. Rewarding employees for EHS excellence and communicating best practices is the BEDC way of saying thank you to its staff, and motivating them towards greater EHS excellence.

The staff was able to successfully and safely deal with this extraordinary situation as the result of employing the principals of the system, which provided for the ability to: Plan (establish EHS goals and objectives and processes to meet the established goals); Do (implement the established processes to mobilize resources, increase competence, create consistent EHS communication and recognition, and provide a system of emergency preparedness); Check (monitor and measure processes and results against established requirements); and Act (take actions to correct and continually improve performance).

"The ultimate goals of the system are to reduce BEDC, construction manager, and contractor incidents, near misses injuries, illnesses and incidents at project sites, while implementing effective pollution prevention programs to enhance BEDC's environmental stewardship and maintaining a commitment to continual improvement that goes beyond compliance," said Deputy Commissioner Mallon.

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