

With Water Main Down, DEP Still Delivers



Just last month, the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations, led by Deputy Commissioner **Jim Roberts**, undertook a sweeping re-organization to help DEP respond faster and smarter to emergencies. Not even a month later, we're seeing that transformation start to pay off.

DEP was recently challenged by a break on a 60-inch water main, but despite the severity of the incident, thanks to the skilled and rapid response of our operations personnel, none of our customers lost service, and there was no additional damage to our distribution system. Last week, Construction Laborers **Collin Wilson** and **John Hundell** responded to a street leak at 1:00 AM, where they observed heavy water coming from the valve chamber of a water main at Kings Highway and Whitty

Place in Brooklyn. As per their training, the two immediately contacted Supervisor **Pete Fackovec** and District Supervisor **Jose Charles Ramirez** for assistance; the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) briefed Bronx Borough Manager **Richard Prado** on the emerging condition.

After establishing a safe work-zone, arriving DEP personnel began to de-water the chamber to get a better look at the leak. Right then, the leak intensified, flooding the street and undermining the road itself. The street began to buckle. DEP's trained staff knew what to do: they barricaded the street, re-directed traffic, established an Agency Command Post, and started to get the leak under control until senior engineering personnel could arrive to develop a strategy to shut down the main while minimizing the inconvenience on the neighborhood.

At its peak, more than 60 DEP personnel worked together to meet this challenge starting with Commissioner **Cas Holloway**, Deputy Commissioner **Jim Roberts**, Assis-

(Continued on reverse side)

Commissioner's Corner



Happy National Drinking Water Week! May 2—8 is dedicated to celebrating America's drinking water, and the watersheds and infrastructure that supply it. Watershed protection and infrastructure investment are top priorities for **Mayor Bloomberg**; the acquisition of tens of thousands of acres in the City's watershed, and projects like City Tunnel 3 will help to ensure the quality and availability of our drinking water for generations to come.

Last week, Deputy Commissioner Paul Rush and I joined NY State Senators **Antoine Thompson**, **Jim Seward**, and **David Valesky** on a tour of a Chesapeake Energy Corporation natural gas exploration well in Towanda, Pennsylvania. When drilling of the well is complete, natural gas production will be stimulated by hydrofracking. The tour was very informative. Each of the wells drilled into the Marcellus Shale is a 24/7 operation that requires pumping 5.6 million gallons of water, sand and fracking fluid thousands of feet underground. Only 700,000 gallons (12.5%) of that amount is recovered, and each drilling operation requires hundreds of truck trips over a 30-to-90 day period. The trip confirmed that hydrofracking is indeed a serious industrial operation, and we must ensure that it is not permitted in places where it could pose a threat to the water supply of 9 million New Yorkers.

Massachusetts that affected the water quality of 2 million residents in Boston and more than a dozen other communities. The failure occurred in the recently completed MetroWest tunnel, a critical supply link that enabled the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) to start repairs on the much older Hultman Aqueduct. We have been in touch with our colleagues at the MWRA and in Boston, and they know we stand ready to assist in any way possible. While there are a number of redundancies in New York City's water supply system, we must continue to make the investments necessary to secure that supply far into the future.

On the sports front, this morning I stopped at the Jamaica Wastewater Treatment Plant to kick-off the 23rd annual Operators Challenge, a competition that tests our plant operators in critical skills, including confined space rescue, and fixing a leaking pipe while it continues to run. You can read more about the competition here. On the line is a trip to the Statewide competition in Syracuse, where the top two DEP teams will have a shot at making it to the national competition in New Orleans. Going into the Jeopardy round this Tuesday (which will determine who goes to Syracuse), the North River "River Rats" are in first place, the Tallman Island "Trash Talkers" are 5.1 points back, and "Sludge Fellas" from Owl's Head are 5.3 points out of first. Congratulations to everyone—including the North River "Generators," who didn't make the top 3—and good luck next week!

The importance of redundant water infrastructure was highlighted this weekend, when a major water tunnel failed in

Spotlight on Safety

Work Zone Safety

Highway and street construction workers are at risk of fatal and non-fatal injury when working near motorists, construction vehicles, and equipment. Each year, more than 100 workers are killed and over 20,000 are injured in the highway and street construction industry. Vehicles and equipment operating in and around the work zone are involved in over half of the worker fatalities in this industry.

DEP's Traffic Work Zone policy was developed in accordance with 29 CFR 1926.200 through 1926.203;

Part VI of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD); and the NYC Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

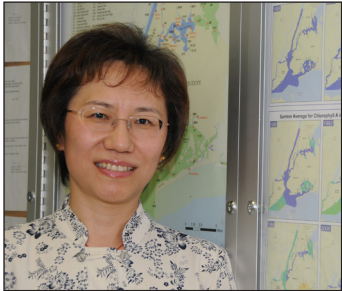
Ways to minimize and control risks:

- High-visibility Apparel
- Worker Training
- Activity Area Planning
- Speed Control
- Lighting
- Special Devices

Be proactive—not reactive—towards safety! Click the following links for more information: [👉](#) [👉](#)

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. [👉](#)



There are many projects at DEP that take a long time to build, and a lot of programs that can take years to mature. You have to be patient to see them through to the end, but if you are, the results are that much sweeter.

Naji Yao, a Research Scientist working for DC **Vinny Sapienza** in the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment, is a part of a hundred-year-old legacy at DEP. Joining DEP in 1989, Naji has seen the tremendous transformation that's taken place in our City's waterways. A Deputy Chief, she has seen for herself that the City's harbor is getting cleaner and cleaner and is especially proud to have worked for an exceptional program that

has set the national standard in water quality monitoring.

Naji began as a research scientist, sampling our harbor water and conducting tests to measure for more than 20 parameters. She used to sail around on DEP's fleet of vessels. "There were good days and bad days, and on bad days it was really rough," she says. "We hit all kinds of weather: windy, snowy, cold." However, she still loves to go out whenever she can.

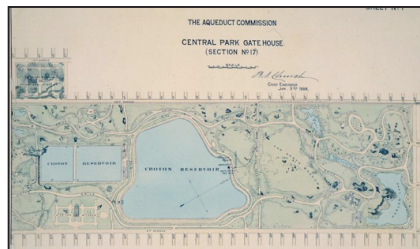
Since 1909, DEP has been conducting its Harbor Survey Program. This year, we'll publish both an Annual Report and a Centennial Report that will celebrate the successes we've made in making New York's waterways the cleanest they've been in a century.

In her spare time, Naji loves to travel—her next new visit will be to Alaska, to soak in the state's natural beauty. Keep working on our harbor waters, Naji, and the Alaskans will be saying the same thing about NYC.

DEP: Then & Now

Then:

The rectangular reservoir on the left was part of the original Croton system and first received water from the (Old) Croton Aqueduct on June 27, 1842. Known as the York Hill Receiving Reservoir it was constructed before Central Park existed and had a capacity of 150 million gallons. The New Receiving Reservoir on the right was constructed between 1857-1862 and though originally a rectangular design was reshaped anticipating the naturalized design of Vaux and Olmstead's Greenward Plan for Central Park. (Drawing: DEP Archive)



Now:

With the completion of City Tunnel 1 in 1917, the York Hill Reservoir was no longer necessary and on May 18, 1925 the water flow was shut off. It was drained between January 22 and February 7, 1929 and transferred from the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity to the Parks Department the same year. There was much debate about how to develop the property which ultimately became the Great Lawn located between 79th and 85th Streets. Today's Turtle Pond formed the rocky edge of the southwest corner of the York Hill Reservoir.



- Q.** I recently learned that there is still a fire hydrant at the location of the very first fire hydrant ever installed in NYC around 1808 (a modern one now, of course!) I think this is pretty neat, and want to know if there is anything marking this at the location of the hydrant. The Hydrant is located at the corner of William and Liberty Streets in Manhattan. **Lucy M. DiSalvo**, Water Ecology/Scientist III, BWS
- A.** Thanks for a really interesting question Lucy. Originally firefighters responding to a call would dig down to the wooden water mains beneath the street, and bore a hole to secure water to fight fires. The location of the plug would often be recorded or marked so that it could be reused in future fires. To avoid having to dig up the cobble stones a metal pipe with a valve at the bottom and an outlet on the side near the top was installed in holes in the water main. This was an early form of the fire hydrant. The pipe was enclosed in a wooden case and might be filled with sawdust or manure as insulation to prevent freezing in the winter, but this idea did not work very well. There is no marker at the site of the first hydrant; the closest modern day hydrant is located on Liberty Street, 75 feet west of William Street.

(Water Main Break... - continued)

tant Commissioner **Ed Coleman**, Director of Distribution Operations **Michael Farnan**, Chief of Distribution **Kate Defazio**, Director of Field Operations **Tasos Georgelis**, Deputy Commissioner for Operations **Kathryn Garcia**, and Emergency Construction's **Saurin Parikh**. Associate Commissioner for Government & Community Affairs **Matt Mahoney** mobilized his team, including Borough Coordinator **Denise Hubbard**, to notify area residents of the situation. DEP also coordinated its response with the OEM, DOT, and NYPD.

Investigation of the cause of the leak is still underway and it may never be determined but the blown out joint has been replaced

with a new one and a restraining clamp was installed over the joint to prevent future failure. BWSO did a tremendous job responding to this challenge, and the Emergency Response Team is already paying big dividends.

Concurrent to the situation in Brooklyn, BWSO handled a similar heavy street leak on West 36th St. in Manhattan. Special thanks to Manhattan Water Maintenance Supervisor **Paul Defazio**, Laborers **Yolanda Vasquez** and **Muro Piccinino**, Manager **Richard Prado**, Chief **Dennis Delaney** and Manhattan Borough Manager **Anthony Marchese**, as well as Con Edison and the FDNY for responding so quickly and professionally to this leak.

Milestones

Congratulations to **Jason Railing**, BWS Kingston, who welcomed his new son on April 14th.

Best wishes to the following DEP employees on their upcoming retirements: **Thomas Giraldi**, BWT; **Jose Maldonado**, BCS; **Laurence DeLaRue**, BWT; **Rose Koch**, BWS; **James Gully**, BWT; and **Richard Adell**, BWT.

Event Calendar:

In celebration of **National Drinking Water Week (May 2nd – 7th)** DEP is partnering with Fishes Eddy, a retail store located on Broadway & 19th Street, to promote the launch of NYC Water merchandise that will be sold there. An NYC Water-on-the-Go Station will be set up outside the store on May 7, 2010 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Greenmarket – Union Square Park, Fridays, 10:00am – 2:00pm

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