NYC Environmental Protection

Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Emily Lloyd, Commissioner

WEEKLY PIPELINE

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Thoughts of Warmer Weather

DEP's upstate reservoirs and dozens of properties along creeks and streams will be open for fishing when trout season begins April 1. Twenty-two reservoirs and lakes, covering roughly 33,500 acres, will be open for fishing from shore or from permitted boats once the ice on the reservoirs melts. In addition to its reservoirs and lakes, the City also owns protected land in the watersheds that include roughly 209 miles of frontage along rivers, streams and creeks that are suitable for trout fishing. For a list of locations that offer the some of the best trout fishing click here.

Spotlight on Safety

Tailor Your Safety Needs with On-line Training

Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) training is key to broadening worker and employer knowledge about the recognition, avoidance, and prevention of safety and health hazards in the workplace. Therefore, as DEP employees, it is essential that we follow all EHS training requirements. OEHS has recently published a Training Course Catalog on The Source, the agency's portal on which employees and supervisors can view DEP's full range of training courses. To review the Training Course Catalogue:

- Go to The Source, DEP's portal.
- Click the **DEP Resources** tab on the top bar to the right.
- From the drop down list, select the **Training and Professional Development**.
- **DEP's Course Offerings** (The Course Catalog) appears on the **Training and Professional Development page**.

The Training Catalog page allows visitors to browse the Catalog, read course descriptions and other relevant information, select a course or courses for registration, download the Catalog for later viewing, and send feedback to help improve the site's usefulness.

The Course Catalog makes it easy to tailor your training assignments to meet your specific needs. It also allows employees to keep current of required training in the safety and health aspects of their jobs.

To go directly to the course catalog, click here.

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

Last week, DEP hosted a series of public outreach events at Home Depot hardware stores around the city to educate New Yorkers about the high cost of residential water leaks and simple steps homeowners can take to detect leaks and repair them. The events were held in recognition of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *Fix a Leak Week*, which is celebrated each March to remind Americans to check their household fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks. Staff from the Bureaus of Public Affairs (BPA), Environmental Planning and Analysis (BEPA) and Customer Services (BCS) distributed literature and leak detector dye tablets to nearly 3,000 New Yorkers. In addition, more than 1,000 people viewed our *Fix a Leak Week* public service announcement about how to detect leaky toilets on DEP's social media sites. You can view the press release here.

Nationwide, household leaks can waste more than 1 trillion gallons of water annually, equal to the annual water use of more than 11 million homes. Leaks are not only wasteful they can also be very expensive for homeowners. In New York City, a running toilet can waste between 30 and 4,000 gallons of water each day and cost homeowners up to $50 per day. Common types of leaks found in the home include worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves. All are easily correctable and making simple repairs can save homeowners on their water bills.

For more tips on detecting leaks and making repairs click here.

Over the last several years, DEP has introduced a number of customer service initiatives aimed at helping New Yorkers manage their water use and bills. These programs include the completion of a network of Automated Meter Reading devices that ensure bills are based on actual consumption and allow customers to access data about their water use in near real time, a leak notification system that has already saved customers more than $45 million and the Water Debt Assistance program which helps property owners at risk of foreclosure manage their water and sewer debt.

I extend my thanks to **Shane Ojar**, **Diana Chernov**, **Denise Hubbard**, **Effie Ardizzone**, **Karen Ellis**, **Frank Fontana** and **Leah McWilliams** with BPA, **Vlada Kenniff** and **Benjamin Huff** with BEPA, and **Debra Smith**, **Rhonda Royster**, and **Carla Bowes** with BCS for making this year's Fix a Leak Week a tremendous success.

Farewell Focus on the Field

DEP Chief Operating Officer (COO) **Kathryn Garcia** will end her eight-year tenure with the department this week and take the reins as the next Commissioner of the Sanitation Department (DSNY) beginning on Monday. Since becoming COO in 2011, she has been responsible for the operations of the Bureaus of Water Supply, Water and Sewer Operations, and Wastewater Treatment, with a combined staff of 4,000 employees, a $540 million expense budget, and a $1.9 billion four-year capital budget. She also has overseen the Energy Office, Fleet Management, and Strategic Planning initiatives. Before becoming COO, Garcia served as Deputy Commissioner for Operations, Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Projects, and Chief of Staff.

A native New Yorker, Garcia attended Stuyvesant High School and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After graduation, Garcia returned to New York City and began her career as a policy analyst at the Department of Finance and as a press officer at the Local Initiatives Support Corporation. She then spent 10 years as Vice President of Appleseed, a local consulting firm, where she specialized in economic development strategies.

As head of day-to-day operations at DEP, Garcia developed and managed H20Stat, a performance management program which has significantly decreased DEP's response time to 311 complaints and street repair requests, and developed a number of DEP's crisis management plans, including the Continuity of Operations and Rondout-West Branch Response Plan. She has also coordinated operations during a number of emergencies, including Tropical Storms Irene and Lee and the four-alarm fire at the North River Wastewater Treatment Plant. She was also incident manager during Hurricane Sandy. Garcia is committed to bringing innovative approaches to sustainability to DSNY to help New York City reach its PlaNYC goals, and will increase the city's waste diversion rate through recycling, composting, and reuse programs.

"I have known Kathryn for many years and she is a smart, tough and dedicated public servant," said DEP Commissioner **Emily Lloyd**. "While we are sad to see her go, we know that she will be a terrific leader at DSNY. On behalf of the entire DEP community, we thank Kathryn for her service and wish her all the best."

"Like the work DEP employees do every day to deliver water and keep the harbor clean, the work of collecting garbage and managing snow keeps a city running or can stop it in its tracks. It's that critical," said Garcia. "I look forward to taking all that I have learned from my time at DEP and strengthening and expanding DSNY's programs to deliver these critical services to every resident and business, in every neighborhood. We'll do it consistently, effectively and equitably, and we will seek out every opportunity to do it better and more sustainably."

Garcia currently resides in Brooklyn with her husband, **Jerry**, and her two children. Her eldest child, **Alex**, will begin his studies at the University of Pennsylvania this fall and daughter Anna is a high school squash player.

Save the Date!

Did you know that more than 750 million people around the world lack access to safe, clean drinking water? In recognition of World Water Day, DEP will hold a special Brown Bag session this Thursday, March 27, at noon. **Donia Quon**, with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, will join us as well as representatives from Water For People's NYC Committee to discuss ways that you can get involved.

The brown bag will be held in the LeFrak 3rd floor cafeteria and will be video conferenced to Grahamsville, Kingston, and Valhalla. In addition, employees from other locations can listen in by emailing brownbag@dep.nyc.gov to request a conference call number and access code.

Press Box

The city is set to begin upgrading sewer lines in several Queens neighborhoods. The $25 million Department of Environmental Protection project will increase sewer capacity in Elmhurst, Maspeth and Middle Village. Officials say the additional lines will help better manage stormwater flooding in these low lying neighborhoods. To view the video on NY1's website click the image or here. To read the press release click here.

Welcome Aboard!

Yesterday, 19 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Chief Financial Officer **Steve Lawitts** and Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development **Diana Jones Ritter**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Ilya Gertsman, **Ray Morgan**, **Timothy J. Osterhout**, **Christopher Tran** and **Mary A. Wright** with BWS; **Ivan De Los Santos Javier**, **Francis Moy**, **Ferid Shabani** and **Jeffrey Walser** with BWSO; **Katarzyna Kwaczynska** and **Diana L. Olaizola** with Sustainability; **Meagan Rossi** and **Patrick Ryan** with BEDC; **Olanike Alabi** with BEC; **Krystle Alvarez** with ACCO; **Tisa LaPadula** with OIT; **Richard Mulvaney** with BCS; **Sarah Pong** with BEPA; and **Robin Sanchez** with BPA.

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