NYC Environmental Protection

Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Vincent Sapienza, P.E., Acting Commissioner

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Commissioner's Corner

This past Saturday I had the pleasure of joining **Mayor de Blasio**, **Staten Island Borough President James Oddo** and our colleagues with the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations (BWSO) to officially activate the Staten Island Siphon. The new, $250 million water tunnel can convey up to 150 million gallons of high-quality drinking water per day under New York Harbor from Brooklyn to Staten Island.

Staten Island was first connected to the City's upstate water supply when two siphons were built in the bed of New York Harbor in 1917 and 1925 respectively. As the Island's population and its demand for water grew, in 1970 the 10-foot diameter Richmond Tunnel was built deep in the bedrock beneath New York harbor and became the primary water conduit to the Island. The original siphons have since been kept in service as a back-up connection to ensure a reliable supply of drinking water for the nearly 500,000 residents on Staten Island who consume approximately 50 million gallons of water each day.

The new 72-inch siphon was excavated at a depth of 100 feet and replaces the nearly century-old original connections, which will be removed during the Port Authority's harbor deepening project. The new siphon, which successfully completed pressurization and water quality testing earlier this fall, serves as the back-up water feed for Staten Island.

Work on the project began in August 2011 and included the construction of access shafts in Brooklyn and Staten Island. A 300 foot-long, 110 ton Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) was lowered into the Staten Island shaft in July 2012 and had progressed approximately 1,600 feet towards Brooklyn when operations were suspended on the evening of October 28, 2012 in advance of the approaching Hurricane Sandy. The historic storm surge associated with Sandy flooded the Staten Island shaft and the excavated tunnel with sea water and severely damaged the TBM. After the tunnel and shafts were dewatered and damage assessments were completed, months of repairs and testing of the TBM followed. On April 14, 2014, the TBM resumed work and excavation of the tunnel was completed in February 2015.

The Earth Pressure Balance TBM, which was used for the first time in New York City as it is made specifically for use in soft ground as opposed to bedrock, excavates and simultaneously installs four foot-wide concrete pre-cast segment rings to line the tunnel wall. Prior to Hurricane Sandy, 389 segment

rings had been put in place, and in total the TBM installed 2,349 rings.

Construction of the new Siphon was managed by our partners at the Economic Development Corporation and was funded jointly by DEP and the Port Authority. I'd like to recognize the entire DEP team that contributed to this project, including **BWSO Acting Deputy Commissioner Tasos Georgelis**, **Tom Wynne**, **Mike Farnan**, **Mike Sullivan**, **Fitzgerald Mortel**, **Angelo Lorenzo**, **Milton Galloway**, **Magdi Noaman**, **Sham Hemraj**, **John Byrne**, **James Hanratty**, **Dushyant Patel**, **Mina Bottros**, **Rohan Ramsammy**, **Vejay Budhu**, **Mohammed Rahman**, **Steve Sforza**, **Dan Bollaert**, **Kevin Patton**, **Philip Depalma** and **Anthony Mezzacappa**.

To read more, click here. To see photos of the project, click here. And a video from inside the tunnel is available here.

Spotlight on Safety

Forklift Safety

Forklifts, also known as powered industrial trucks, are used in various DEP operations for the safe transport of materials. However, using a forklift can be hazardous if proper safety precautions are not followed. Overloading a forklift, unbalanced loads, and damaged or loose loads can be hazardous.

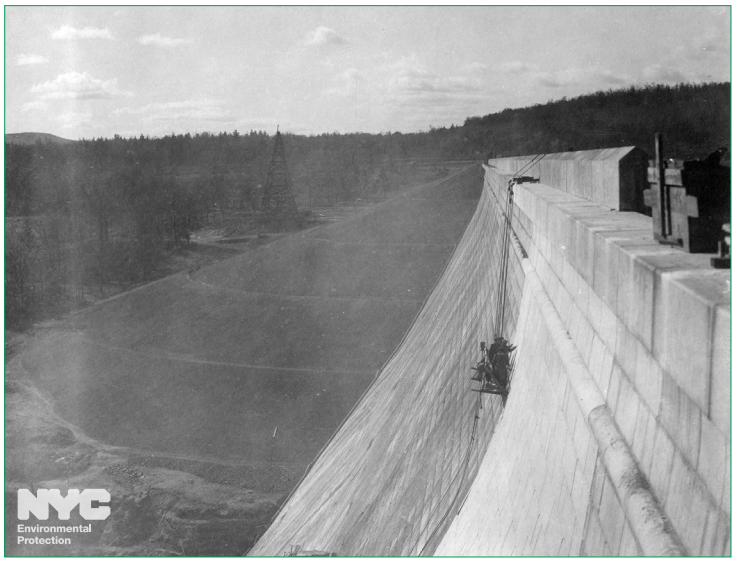
Following these guidelines can reduce the risk of forklift hazards:

- employees are appropriately trained
- forklifts are properly inspected and maintained
- forklifts are only operated in environments and on surfaces for which they are designed

For more information see DEP's Policy on Powered Industrial Trucks or OSHA Guidelines 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.

Out of the Archives



Cleaning the nearly-completed Olive Bridge Dam at Ashokan Reservoir. October 27, 1914.

Nets Host DEP Game Day

The Brooklyn Nets are hosting a DEP Game Day at the Barclays Center on November 20 when they take on the Portland Trailblazers. Tip-off is at 3:30 p.m. and tickets cost $25 per seat for the 200 level and $50 per seat for the 100 level. The deadline to purchase tickets is Nov. 16 at 11:59 p.m. For more information, contact **Adrian Allen**, at 718-595-4383 or AAllen@dep.nyc.gov.

Holiday Food Drives

DEP has begun its annual holiday food drives, both at Lefrak and at upstate facilities. In-city donations will go to support the Food Bank for New York City. Upstate donations will go to the Grahamsville and Ulster Heights United Methodist Churches and Ulster County Community Action. At Lefrak, food drop-off is in the Flocculator conference room on the 19th floor and donations will continue to be accepted until December 16. For more information, please contact **Joe Sokolowski** at ext. 6168 or **Sara Pecker** at ext. 5487. Please click here for specific information on the food drives being held at the various facilities. Thank you for making the holidays a little happier for your less fortunate neighbors.

Kudos Corner

Nearly 750 DEP employees were honored last week at the 32nd Annual Employee Recognition Day. The celebration was held at the DC 37 Headquarters in lower Manhattan and employees were recognized for their length of service to the City and for perfect attendance. Congratulations to all! Click here to see more photos and here to see the program for the event.

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