Special Guest Commissioner’s Corner

Since transferring to BEDC from BWT about five months ago, I’ve been working with BEDC senior leadership, as well as the Commissioner’s office and other agency Bureaus, to evaluate BEDC’s existing organization as it absorbs new functions and continues to develop its project delivery capability. The resulting BEDC reorganization was rolled out at the Bureau-wide BEDC Forum on Nov. 29 at the Queens Museum. Key highlights include:

- The new Office of Stormwater Planning and Engineering (OSPE) has been created to develop integrated plans for long-term stormwater management and identify synergies with shorter term state-of-good-repair projects for phased implementation of final plan elements.
- The new Green Infrastructure design program, which was transferred from BEPA to BEDC, is being overseen by In-House Design (IHD) Director Pat O’Connor. BEDC IHD will now also report to Assistant Commissioner Mike Borsykowski in addition to Mike’s other portfolio responsibilities for the water supply capital program.
- The Gowanus Canal Superfund project, currently estimated at $800M for construction of two CSO storage tanks, has been transferred to Borsykowski to balance workload.
- Executive Program Director Sean McAndrew will be a direct report to the Acting Deputy Commissioner for all projects in his portfolio including Water for the Future, Gilboa reconstruction and other critical water infrastructure.
- The EH&S Directorate under Heather Belovin has added two new Chief positions, one for Environmental/Auditing and EHS Design and one for Field Management. These two new positions are in addition to Neil Feldscher, who will continue to be Chief of EHS Programs and Training.
- Executive Program Director Stephanie Chao is Acting Director of the Capital Budget and Contract Services Unit in BEDC.
- Two new Executive Office positions are being created: one for BEDC Chief of Staff and one for Chief of BEDC IT.

Spotlight on Safety

Eye Protection Safety

Protecting your sight is one of the most important things you can do in the workplace. According to OSHA, thousands of people are blinded each year from work-related eye injuries that could have been prevented with the proper selection and use of eye and face protection. Typical eye injuries occur by foreign materials, such as metal chips, dirt particles or splinters entering the eye. Surface scratches are the most common types of injuries to the eyes. Other injuries include chemical burns, eye swelling and penetration by foreign objects.

Wearing the following eye protections when required are the best approach to preventing eye injuries:

- Safety goggles
- Safety glasses
- Safety glasses with side shield
- Face Shield
- Welding Helmet (stationary window or lift-front window)

Ask your supervisor or your safety officer to help you select the right eye protection for your job task. For more information, visit DEP’s PPE Policy and OSHA’s eye and face protection website.

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.

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WEEKLY

PIPELINE

Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Vincent Sapienza, P.E., Acting Commissioner
A forestry project is under way to remove hazardous trees from the immediate proximity of the J. Waldo Smith Monument, a stone tower located on a hill along the south side of Ashokan Reservoir. A portion of the recreation path located between the monument and the Dividing Weir Bridge is expected to be closed until the end of December to allow for the safe removal of century-old trees that are dead, dying, or within falling distance of the monument. This tree thinning will open the forest floor to sunlight, promote the growth of a younger, more diverse forest, and allow for the creation of a public lawn area near the monument. The historic monument was built in 1908 as hundreds of workers constructed the dam, dikes, chambers and tunnels that would become Ashokan Reservoir. A photo gallery of the monument can be viewed here.

Welcome Aboard!

Yesterday, 22 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Commissioner Diana Jones Ritter, Director of Planning and Recruitment Grace Pigott and HR Specialist Grace Franco. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Eyden Inshanally with ACCO; Joseph Salazar with BEC; Robert Bianchi, David P. Friedrich, Allan Gilbert, Melissa Phelan, Michael Risinit and Edward Scheuner III with BWS; Sylvia E. Ancrum, Ellen Anderson, Sytonia Letsome, Natalia Mendy, Bhaskar Nookala, Shibly Shadque, and Alina Tarmu with BWSO; Desiree Gibbs, Joshua Matias and Tanvir Saddique with BWT; Meiska Castillo with CDBG; Adam Abuhamda with FDC; and Katharine S. Okamoto and Michael Scabia with Sustainability.