

# Weekly Pipeline

Shaft construction for **City Water Tunnel No. 3**

September 13, 2022

# Commissioner's Corner



**Rohit Aggarwala**

During the final days of August, **Mayor Adams** visited the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) construction site for one of the final shafts for the portion of City Water Tunnel No. 3 that will serve Queens and Brooklyn. The Mayor received an update on construction of the shafts, took the elevator to the current bottom of the shaft (about 170 feet deep) and greeted staff from DEP's Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction as well as the Sandhogs and other contractors that are carrying out this important work. Thank you to Deputy Commissioner **Ana Barrio**, **Sean McAndrew** and **Lauren D'Attile** for coordinating this visit. A video of the Mayors visit can be viewed [here](#).

Delivering a reliable supply of high-quality water to all 8.8 million New Yorkers is one of our top missions at DEP and the work necessary to fulfill that promise requires contributions from staff across the entire agency. From our police division that patrols the watershed to the team of scientists that conduct more than 750,000 annual tests of the wa-



ter to our engineers that build and maintain the system of aqueducts, tunnels and water mains to our legal, budget and contracting staff, every role is important to ensuring that when our neighbors open their tap, they reliably receive the champagne of tap water.

Collected in large, protected reservoirs in three separate systems across the Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains, the water is of the highest quality at the source. Large aqueducts deliver the water to the city and from there massive water tunnels deep underground bring it to all corners of the five boroughs. City Water Tunnel No. 1 went into service in 1917 and serves the Bronx and Manhattan. City Water Tunnel No. 2 was activated in 1936 and brings water to the residents of Queens and Brooklyn. The

much more recent Richmond Tunnel (1970) and its back-up, the Staten Island Siphon (2016), deliver water to our neighbors on Staten Island.

The massive City Water Tunnels are drilled through dense bedrock several hundred feet below ground level so they are very stable and their performance is continually monitored to detect any changes. Every 20 city blocks or so a giant shaft brings the water up from the tunnels to the more than 7,000 miles of water mains that lie just below the roadways of the city. The mechanical equipment within these shafts does need to be

regularly exercised and maintained to ensure that they are operating properly. In fact, the main impetus for the construction of City Water Tunnel No. 3 was to allow DEP to take the shafts that service Tunnels No. 1 and No. 2 out of service for regular maintenance and rehabilitation.

The construction of City Water Tunnel No. 3 began in 1970. The first section of the Tunnel serving the Bronx and upper portions of Manhattan went into service in 1998. The portion of the Tunnel serving midtown and lower Manhattan...

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## Spotlight on Safety

National Concussion Awareness Day, recognized on the third Friday of September, highlights the importance of recognizing a concussion, treating it appropriately and supporting those injured. Concussion is a mild form of traumatic brain injury caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head. If left undiagnosed and untreated, concussions can cause severe long-lasting symptoms. The general signs of a concussion include symptoms such as dizziness, headaches, blurred vision, nausea, ringing in the ears, and loss of consciousness.

To prevent concussions and other head injuries on the job:

- avoid falls by paying attention to where you are walking, cleaning up spills immediately, and keeping exit doors, pathways or aisles clear of clutter
- be aware of falling objects or anything you can hit your head on
- properly wear a hard hat, with space between the inside of the hard hat and the top of your head
- inspect hard hats for damage such as cracks; do not cover damage with stickers
- wear shoes with good support and slip resistant soles

For more information, visit the [CDC Heads Up](#).



Michael Farnan, Lauren D'Attile, Ovidiu Pena, Ted Timbers, Mayor Adams, Sean McAndrew, Ana Barrio, Purnima Dharia, Samantha Jones, Kevin Ellenwood, Jackie Hanna, Vincent Sapienza, John Cosgrove

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're 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 [EHS EMPLOYEE CONCERNS](#). HELP IS ON THE WAY.

## Water at Jacob Riis Safe to Drink

On Saturday, Mayor Eric Adams released a statement informing the public that the drinking water at the New York City Housing Authority's Jacob Riis Houses was safe for consumption and use. This followed eight days of confusion resulting from the water testing firm Environmental Monitoring and Technologies introducing arsenic into the samples that led to the false results. "We can confidently say the water at Riis Houses is and has been free of any discernible amount of arsenic since the initial tests were initiated in August and meets EPA standards," said Mayor Adams, who himself had stopped by the housing development to drink the water to demonstrate it was safe. Adams stressed that "NYCHA nor any other city agency will test water through



Environmental Monitoring and Technologies any longer, and the city intends to pursue all available legal options" against the firm. Thank you to all of the DEP staff who have worked to ensure that the City's water supply remains safe and of the highest quality while providing assistance to our partner agencies and making Water-on-the-Go stations available to the residents of the Riis Houses.

## Welcome Aboard



On Monday, 17 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the Agency from our Deputy Director of HR **Grace Pigott** and HR Generalist **Harold Kim**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

**Rahim Abraham**, **Kevin Murray** and **Martin Noel**, BWSO; **Christopher Agun**,

**Vincent Clausi**, **Frank Smith** and **Nicholas Nisirios**; **Robert Dacruz** and **Charles Kong**, SUST; **Jasmyn Gervais-Cierniak**, BPS; **Jhesus Hackshaw**, BIT; **Angela Tang**, OEHS; **Yolanda Hoy**, ACCO; **Atreasure McCord** and **Margarita Aguilar**, BWT; **Qiana Mickie**, COMM, and **Cynthia Stuart**, ACCO.

## Quenching a Dry Watershed

Labor Day weekend brought the Catskills and Hudson Valley the first significant and long duration rainfall in months. The previous dry weather resulted in drought declarations for much of the state and the U.S. Drought Monitor indicated drought conditions for most of our area. The NYC Water Supply System had remained in a normal status despite the lack of rainfall. Our reservoir system did not meet the conditions required to declare a drought watch or emergency. Those declarations are based on the probabilities our two largest water supply systems, the Catskill and Delaware systems, will refill before the start of the next water supply year on June 1. The refill probabilities are determined by DEP's Operational Support Tool (OST), an advanced computer



Schoharie Reservoir

model that helps our operators examine current conditions and use data to look into the future. We still need to monitor operations as we head into autumn, but the rain provided significant relief for our reservoirs and our colleagues who operate and monitor them.

## Climate Week 2022

Workforce Development & Training is glad to announce that Climate Week will take place next week, from Sept. 19-25! Climate Week first began in New York City in 2009 when it was launch by Climate Group as a way to push climate action forward. WFD&T is glad to bring this initiative to DEP for another

year by offering a week full of presentations, giveaways, and activities. In line with Climate Group, this year Climate Week will focus on the built environment, equity, environmental justice, and much more. We hope you join the WFD&T in celebrating! [Click here](#) to view the current schedule and stay tuned!

## 1-Year Since Returning to Office



**Jonathan Glotzer**

It has been approximately one year since the City called all workers back to office/field sites full time after an unprecedented period of remote working for many of its employees. There continues to be strong reactions to this mayoral action, but

one thing for certain across the board is that it was a major life shift for those affected.

To cope with such a change that we had no control over, some extraordinary life changes were realized. As we continue to adjust to the current way of doing things, and navigate our own individual challenges...

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