

# Weekly Pipeline

The DEP Police **Emergency Service Unit** recently held **ice safety trainings** for watershed employees.

January 29, 2025



# Commissioner's Corner



**Rohit T.  
Aggarwala**

DEP's outsized role in the watershed—as a land owner, a major employer, a police force—makes it critical that we are a valued member of the community. And

I'm pleased to say that, according to polling, we are held in high esteem by residents of the watershed. In particular, watershed residents appreciate that DEP makes so much of our lands available for recreation, which is a cornerstone of the quality of life in the area and a key aspect of its tourism and second-home economy. They also appreciate the benefits the DEP police bring.

It was less widely understood that—despite being a government entity—DEP pays taxes on its property in the watershed. In fact, each year DEP directly infuses hundreds of millions of dollars into local economies throughout the watershed—between paying full property taxes and funding best management practices on watershed farms and economic development projects throughout the region.

In 2024, the agency completed payments of \$165 million in local village, town, city, county and school taxes across nine Hudson Valley and Catskill counties covering the water supply system serving half of the State's population. With these payments, DEP was among the top taxpay- ers in numerous municipalities and school districts across the watershed region.

DEP paid more county government property taxes than any other property owner in Ulster, Delaware, Putnam and Schoharie counties, and was the second highest in Westchester County. Learn more about DEP's 2024 local property and school tax payments break down [here](#).

DEP pays property and school taxes at full assessed value on all land, reservoirs, dams and structures across the approximately 230,000 acres it owns or controls throughout the 2,000-square-mile watershed in the Hudson Valley and Catskills, including the tens of thousands of acres open to the public for recreational purposes such as hiking, fishing, hunting and boating, as well as on property used for

agricultural purposes. Piping and aqueducts used to convey water are tax exempt. Taxes are paid on all properties originally

also call the region home and infuse millions more into the local economies by shopping, raising families, and paying taxes as well.

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acquired to build the 19 upstate reservoirs and three controlled lakes between the mid-19th and mid-20th centuries (about 78,000 acres), and all land and assets acquired since to operate the supply system and as buffer land to help protect water quality (approximately 156,000 acres).

DEP also has more than 1,000 employees throughout the upstate watershed and water supply system. Assigned to facilities throughout the Catskills and Hudson Valley, these DEP employees

Working with these communities is not simply a business decision born from necessity but a personal one where we truly get to work hand in hand with our neighbors.

We remain committed to collaborating with all the communities that help us to continually deliver the highest quality water possible to half the State's population. And, DEP will continue paying its fair share to support our watershed partners.



## Ice Safety Training on Bog Brook



The DEP Police Emergency Service Unit recently held ice safety trainings for watershed employees. During exercises at Bog Brook Reservoir, East of Hudson Water Quality staff were given instruction on how to safely obtain water samples from icy waters, as well as how to perform surface ice rescue operations. Participants learned the characteristics of ice, how hypothermia can affect both the victim and the rescuer, and what rescue methods are safest and most effective given the ice conditions. Officers also trained on how to employ various rescue techniques utilizing ice picks and tow ropes.



## Social Media Highlight



Tomorrow's leaders get their start [@NYCSchools!](#) Former 7th grade classmates from JHS 144 [@CarlHeastie](#) and DEP Deputy Commissioner Angela DeLillo caught up recently in Albany. Go Spartans!



11:00 AM · Jan 24, 2025



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## DEP is Hiring Engineers



Calling all Engineers! DEP will be at the [Jobs NYC Hiring Hall](#) this Thursday, Jan. 30, from 10am-2pm at Bronx Works—Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center, located at 130 Grand Concourse, 2nd Floor, in the Bronx. We are looking for candidates with 4-year degrees and driver's licenses to fill various engineering positions within the agency.

## Deputy Mayor Visits WRRF



The Bureau of Wastewater Treatment (BWT) recently hosted Deputy Mayor for Operations **Meera Joshi** and Acting Department of Sanitation (DSNY) Commissioner **Javier Lojan**, as well as their respective staff, for a tour of the Newtown Creek Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF). The tour sought to understand the challenges of managing organic material collected by the DSNY Curbside Organics Program and how DEP's infrastructure can be utilized for DSNY and DEP's mutual benefit. The group started the tour at Waste Management's (WM) Varick Avenue facility to see how WM removes contamination from collected organics and processes

clean organics into a slurry that is digestible in Newtown Creek's anaerobic digesters. The second leg of the tour brought the group to the Newtown Creek facility to see the digesters and National Grid's gas purification equipment. Deputy Director of Strategy and Long-Term Planning **Brendan Hannon** and Circular Economy Program Manager **Shijoy Varughese** from the Office of Energy and Resource Recovery Programs hosted the DMO/DSNY team. Co-hosting were Acting Chief Operating Officer **Tasos Georgelis**, BWT Deputy Commissioner **Angela De Lillo**, Assistant Commissioner **Elio Paradis**, and Newtown Creek Facility Manager **Shri Sewgobind**.

## Out of the Archives



Caulking the Catskill Aqueduct hundreds of feet below ground. This was one of the most difficult areas of construction, where the aqueduct turns into a deep pressure tunnel about

ten miles south of Ashokan Reservoir in order to pass under the Rondout Creek valley. January 23, 1913. You can view more images from the DEP Archives on [Flickr](#).

## Celebrating the Lunar New Year



The Bureau of Business Information Technology (BIT) last was a wonderful opportunity for BIT staff to come together and share in the festivities, as well as a sense of unity in the spirit of the new year. A special thank you to BIT Deputy Commissioner **Michael Shum** for the start of the Lunar calendar and new beginnings. This year is the 'Year of the Snake,' signifying rebirth and renewal. It helped to organize.

## Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 12 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the agency from our HR Generalist, **Harold Kim**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

**Arianna King**, **Neoklis Triantafyllidis**, and **Jose Williams**, BWSO; **Zachary Alderson**, **Angelo Antoniello**, and **Nirahoo Durgasingh**, SUST; **Say Sanchez-Osorio**, COMM/MOCEJ; **JianWei Chen**, BCS; **Karthik Adavala**, BEDC; **Dexter Smith**, FMC; **Drisana Hughes**, BPAC, and **Rajesh Singh**, BWT.