

# Weekly Pipeline

DEP has completed excavations on the **final two shafts** connecting to **City Tunnel 3**.

November 12, 2025



# Guest Commissioner's Corner



Ana Barrio

Every day, nearly 10 million people in New York City and upstate

turn on their taps and receive safe, high-quality drinking water all thanks to a vast and largely invisible system that begins 125 miles

away. The city's water supply flows from 19 reservoirs and 3 controlled lakes, delivering 1 billion gallons daily! Remarkably, 95% of that water arrives by gravity alone, traveling through three massive tunnels carved deep into bedrock several hundred feet below ground level.

Tunnels 1 and 2 were completed in 1917 and 1936. That's why City Tunnel 3 — under construction since 1970 — is so critical. Once fully commissioned, it will provide redundancy across the city and finally allow for maintenance on the older tunnels.

The first stage of City Tunnel 3 was placed into service in 1998, delivering water to the Bronx and Upper Manhattan. In 2013, the second stage began serving Midtown and Lower Manhattan.

Construction of the Queens-Brooklyn section of City Tunnel 3 began in 1988 and was com-

pleted in 2001. Since then, seven of nine vertical shafts have been built to lift water from the tunnel to the city's 7,000-mile network of water mains.

Work on the final two shafts in Queens began in January 2021. Excavation is now complete, with one reaching approximately 780 feet deep and the other about 720 feet to the tunnel below. Equipment installation is next, with full completion expected by 2032. Once operational, these shafts will distribute water to surrounding neighborhoods.

The scale of this complex work is staggering: 25,000 cubic yards of concrete (equal to 1.2 million 80-pound bags or the weight of about 12,000 Asian elephants), 4 million pounds of rebar (enough steel for 20,000 cars), and enough chain link fence to span the Verrazano Bridge twice. The shafts are individually as deep as the Woolworth Building — or,

when combined, five times the height of the Statue of Liberty — and the excavated material could fill 30 Olympic swimming pools.

Our work builds on the legacy of generations of engineers whose foresight created a water system designed not just for the needs of their time but for sustaining the growth of New York City far into the future.

City Tunnel 3 is a project decades in the making, built to serve generations to come. And I am so proud of the integral role the Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction (BEDC) has played.

A special thank you to the BEDC staff, especially Executive Director of Special Projects **Nayan Shah**, Portfolio Manager **Lauren D'Attilio** and Accountable Manager **John McCluskey**, and the contractors carrying out this critical work.

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## In the News



Commissioner Aggarwala and BEDC Portfolio Manager Lauren D'Attile recently took NY's Roger Clark for a tour of the final shaft for City Tunnel 3 in Queens as it nears completion. The shaft goes nearly 800 feet underground where it connects with the tunnel. Once the tunnel opens, the shaft will pull water up into water mains that supply Queens and Brooklyn. [Watch the interview.](#)

## AMR Replacement Update



As of this week, the Bureau of Customer Services (BCS) has completed 25% of the city-wide upgrades to Automated Meter Reader (AMR) devices. This milestone highlights the dedication and efficiency of DEP's inspectors, whose on-the-ground expertise is essential to the success of this major system upgrade. Each week, BCS's Metering Operations Team coordinates the replacement of 5,000 AMR devices across all five boroughs—ensuring quality, accuracy, and accountability with every installation. These upgrades are critical to maintaining accurate billing based on actual water usage, while also enabling real-time consumption tracking and leak detection for our customers.

## Kudos Corner

Wendy Spurduto, Assistant Commissioner of Engineering & Planning for the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations, was honored last Thursday by the Women Builders Council (WBC) as a recipient of their 2025 Outstanding Women Award. This prestigious recognition celebrates exceptional leaders who are driving impact across New York's building industry through their talent, leadership, and commitment to advancing women and underrepresented professionals. The award was presented at



the WBC Annual Champion Awards Gala, held at Guastavino's in Manhattan.

## Social Media Highlight



Last night's #BeaverMoon over Ashokan Reservoir was stunning. Look closely and you'll spot our robotic 🤖 monitoring buoy soon to be brought in for winter when things ice 🧊 over, just like the beavers 🦫 retreating to their lodges. Photo by DEP's Veronica Andreassen 📷



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## DEP Police Run in Puerto Rico



Members of the DEP Police Running Team traveled to Puerto Rico last weekend to take part in the [2025 LOLA Challenge](#). This three-day event features a 5K on Friday, a 10K on Saturday, and a Half Marathon on Sunday. Congratulations to Lt. **Jose Rivera**, Lt. **Corey Albert**, and Det. **Nicholas Arce**, who completed all three races and earned the coveted finisher medal. Even more impressive: just one week earlier, these three road warriors crossed the finish line at the NYC Marathon. Way to go team!

## Out of the Archives



In November 1906, these courageous surveyors climbed Bonticou Crag near New Paltz to help plan the path of the new Catskill Aqueduct. The need for an additional source of water was clear and dire, and the City worked diligently to bring an adequate supply to all the boroughs as quickly as possible. You can view more images from the DEP Archives on [Flickr](#).

## Hydrant Hysteria Competition



On Nov. 6, the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations (BWSO) teams from across the five boroughs gathered to compete in the seventh annual action-packed Hydrant Hysteria event held at the Queens training yard. Five two-person teams raced the stopwatch to assemble a M&H style fire hydrant as quickly as possible. (The M&H-style hydrant is what will be used in the national American Water Works Association competition being held in June 2026 in Washington, DC.) The speed and precision showcased by competitors highlights the impressive skillset needed to maintain and operate the city's 109,000 fire hydrants. A properly functioning hydrant is essential so that firefighters have ready access to the city's water supply in case of an emergency. The winners were **Daniel Gerhardt** and **William**

**Stapleton** from Brooklyn Repairs with a time of 1 minute and 27 seconds. Securing second place were **Nicholas Caruselle** and **Vincent Pasquale** from Manhattan Repairs with 1 minute and 35 seconds.

DEP recognizes all the staff who volunteered to serve as stopwatch operators and judges, as well as the Hydrant Committee members and the Human Capital Resource Group, coach **John Thomas**, District Supervisor for Brooklyn Repairs, **Jerry Fragias**, Acting Assistant Commissioner of Operations, **Yocanda Baez**, Bureau Administration, **Rebecca Behle**, Training Coordinator, and **Chris Smith** and **Bernadette McCallion** from the Bureau of Business Information Technology. View more photos on [Flickr](#).

