Special Guest  

**Commissioner’s Corner**

Michael DeLoach  
Deputy Commissioner  
Public Affairs & Communications

It might be the end of the school year, but BPAC’s education team is always working to teach the next generation of New Yorkers about our water and wastewater systems. Last week, more than 50 non-formal educators from New York City and the metro region attended the annual watershed forestry bus tour. The successful tour included several stops in and around the East-of-Hudson Watershed, including Kensico and Cross River reservoirs, Hilltop Hanover Farm, and the New Croton Dam.

Educators walked through an actively managed forestry site alongside Kensico Reservoir, and they walked through the interior of the Old Croton Dam, which first delivered water to New York City in 1842. These were extraordinary experiences that provided educators with a glimpse of our water supply’s history, its current-day operation, and some of the challenges that we face in the future.

BWS staff, including water scientist James Broderick and forester Todd Baldwin, helped the educators understand the deep foundation of science that drives our work to operate and protect the water supply. BPS project manager Pete Dispensa helped them learn and interpret some of the water supply history. And BPAC’s Adam Bosch presented invaluable information about the water supply operations, water quality monitoring, and other topics.

BPAC educators and their partners from the Watershed Agricultural Council led the group through hands-on activities throughout the day, modeling all the concepts presented during the tour. Many of the activities will be replicated by the educators as they reach out to the young people and adults they serve throughout the year.

Participating educators represented BioBus, the Gowanus Canal Conservancy, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, Intrepid Air and Space Museum, Westchester County Parks, NYC Parks, Queens Botanical Gardens, Brooklyn Children’s Museum, NY Restoration Project, the Mayor’s Office, NYC Department of Education, Audubon New York, Randall’s Island Park Alliance, and many others.

All the educators were engaged, curious, and eager to network with one another as they discovered new ways to inform New Yorkers about their vast water supply. Our team was excited that some of the first reviews called the trip insightful, thoughtful and fun.

DEP’s Education Office provides important resources for formal and non-formal educators by conducting year-round professional learning opportunities, assisting with curriculum development, and producing education materials designed to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards.

I would like to thank all of the presenters, the DEP Police, and the Education team, Kim Estes-Fradis, Robin Sanchez, Helene Amato, Lakeisha Bradshaw, LaToya Anderson, and Education interns Ruthie Gold, Melanie Greenwald, and Sophia Miller.

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**Spotlight on Safety**

**Recharge to Be in Charge: Workplace Fatigue**

An important theme during National Safety Month is Fatigue. According to the National Safety Council, 97% of American workers have at least one risk-factor for fatigue; those most at risk work the night shift, long shifts or irregular shifts. Getting the proper amount of rest allows us to recharge our stamina and avoid injuries at work - especially important for jobs that involve keeping others safe. Lack of sleep can also lead to drowsy driving-related accidents and health problems.

Supervisors should be alert for signs of excessive fatigue among workers, such as yawning, head dropping, and difficulty remembering or concentrating. Simple measures can address workplace fatigue, such as holding regular toolbox talks on prevention tips.

The following tips can help you stay well rested:

- Set 7–9 hours of sleep every day
- Go to bed and wake up at the same time every day—even on weekends
- Avoid using electronic devices before bed
- Eliminate unnecessary light in the room, ensure the temperature is not too hot or too cold, and ensure pillows and bed are comfortable
- Avoid caffeine, alcohol and eating right before bed

For more information on fatigue and worker safety, visit OSHA’s website.

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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. HELP IS ON THE WAY.
Focus on the Field: Value Ambassadors for Safety

This month, Weekly Pipeline celebrated DEP’s final core value of Safety with the Value Ambassador program. As part of the program, we are highlighting six DEP employees nominated by their peers who, through their work, best represent Safety at DEP.

November: Innovation December: Support

CHANDAN SAHA, is a Compliance Support Specialist in the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) and has been with DEP since 2014. He is a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) with the Board of Certified Safety Professionals. He provides technical EHS guidance throughout the Agency, conducts job hazard analyses, ergonomic analyses, indoor air quality monitoring, safety trainings, and performs personal protective equipment (PPE) assessments. Chandan is instrumental in the development of Safety Week by creating themed Escape Room Challenges and by showcasing the use of virtual reality technology as an innovative tool for safety training at DEP. He will also be demonstrating at various DEP sites the benefits of virtual reality training. Chandan was nominated by Carice Craffey.

January: Diversity February: Service

MELINDA SHERER, is Assistant Counsel for the Bureau of Legal Affairs and has been with DEP for over 15 years. Melinda provides legal advice to OEHS and bureau EHS Directors on the development of DEP’s formal safety and health programs. She provides compliance assistance on federal and state worker safety regulations and on an array of safety subjects that impact DEP operations. For her dedication to continued improvement of employee health and safety programs, Melinda was nominated by Elissa Stein Cushman.

March: Integrity April: Sustainability

PATRICK LAMBERT, is a Deputy Division Chief for the Bureau of Water Supply and has been with DEP since 1993. Pat has led the environmental health and safety compliance for the Water Operations Division for the past 13 years, and supervises six employees in a variety of duties. Pat is known for his dedication to safety in the complex daily operations of the Water Operations Division. From mowing grass on the steep slopes of dams and aqueducts to high voltage repairs and installations to working in confined spaces, Pat keeps BWS’ safety record on solid ground. Patrick Lambert was nominated by John Vickers.

May: Transparency June: Safety

Eddie Wright, exemplifies a premier safety professional in his role as the Chief of EHS Safety Section for the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment. Eddie has been with DEP since 1988 and assists with evacuation drills, evaluates equipment for the Management of Change process, identifies new safety products for use, performs investigations, and oversees the BWT EHS emergency response contractor. For this year’s safety month, Eddie transformed an old trailer into BWT’s emergency response and mobile training vehicle furnishing it with PPE, a generator, and ventilation equipment. He also showcased new equipment, along with new safety devices for fall prevention and non-entry confined space retrieval, that will be supplied to Wastewater Resource Recovery Facilities. Eddie was nominated by Pam Elardo, Bob LaGrotta and Bill Yulinsky.

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