

DEP's New Procurement Tracking System Makes Big Im-PACT!

The Agency Chief Contracting Office (ACCO) manages all procurement and contracts for DEP, which is no small task with about 250 contracts worth nearly \$1 billion each year. DEP manages water distribution, waste management, and much more for the most populous city in the United States, so even the nearly 6,000 DEP employees cannot do it all. Examples of jobs currently up for bid range from pest control at various Wastewater Treatment Plants (\$700,000) to the Construction of Shafts 5B and 6B of the Roundout-West Branch Bypass Tunnel (\$236,000,000). The ACCO ensures that all contracts go through all necessary steps in the procurement process, which has been made easier with their new



Procurement and Contract Tracking Application (PACT).

DEP, like all New York City agencies, is required to follow a set of rules for hiring contractors. This requires meticulous ACCO oversight; until now, most bureaus and

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Spotlight on Safety

Eye Safety

Every day, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics approximately 2,000 eye injuries occur in U.S. workplaces. The cost estimate for lost production time, medical expenses, and workers compensation is more than \$300 million annually.

- The majority of eye injuries occur among mechanics, repairers, plumbers, carpenters, assemblers, sanders, grinding machine operators, and laborers.
- The majority of accidents result from falling objects or sparks flying into the eye, or contact with chemicals.
- Other accidents occur from objects swinging from a fixed position such as tree limbs, ropes, chairs or tools.
- A significant number of injuries occurring to workers wearing the wrong type of eye protection were the result of chemicals going around or under the eye protection.

OSHA standards require that employers provide workers with suitable eye protection. The eyewear must be of the appropriate type for the hazard encountered, and properly fitted. Employees should be trained and educated about the necessity and type of protective eyewear for a particular job. Eye injuries are the easiest to avoid—If required, wear your eye protection. Bureau EHS staff review job hazards and work with employees to select the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) for the hazards encountered. It is important for all employees to be aware of job hazard and PPE assessments. If you have questions or suggestions about PPE, or you were recently assigned a new task, you should speak to your EHS representative or OEHS about best PPE options.

For more information please visit the websites for the CDC  and the Bureau of Labor Statistics .

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. 

Commissioner's Corner

Paul Rush, Deputy Commissioner, is a guest commentator this week.

In the May 25th edition of Pipeline, Commissioner Strickland wrote about the discovery of oil on the surface of Pepacton Reservoir near the intake to the East Delaware Tunnel. The finding, by a DEP Police marine patrol, resulted in an "all hands on deck" emergency response. Although DEP has gained much experience in responding to petroleum spills in the watershed, primarily through HazMat and Compliance staff, this event—with its source more than 130 feet under water at the bottom of reservoir—has provided us with a unique challenge.

The initial response was led by HazMat. As soon as weather conditions allowed, containment booms was installed and anchored in place to ensure containment of any leak. As is standard practice for unusual events that could have a significant impact, DEP conducted coordination calls and produced situation reports. After the leak was contained, several important questions required answers: What was the material? Where was it coming from? How did it get there?

Water Quality staff took samples of the material and analyzed them for a variety of compounds. The results identified the substance reaching the surface as weathered diesel fuel. Further analysis showed it was not impacting water quality at the intake chamber.

The first attempt at determining the source of the leak by using a DEP Police submersible camera was unsuccessful. The source was ultimately determined by divers working under the supervision of Compliance. The source appears to be a buried metal tank at the bottom of the reservoir.

The expertise on current and historic upstate water supply land acquisitions resides within Watershed Protection Programs (WPP). WPP studied the maps of properties in the vicinity of the leak that were acquired at the time the reservoir was constructed.



Although there was a former gas station identified about 1,000 feet away, the leak area appears to be adjacent to the former Delaware & Eastern Railroad line. It is also possible that the tank was part of a construction equipment fueling facility that was left behind and buried by the contractor who constructed the reservoir system nearly 60 years ago. We can't yet say for sure what is, but we continue to investigate.

With the support of **Bob Groppe**, **Nick Canaan**, **Mary Pazan**, and **Debra Butlien**, an emergency contract was issued to Moran Environmental Recovery to remove the diesel fuel from the suspected tank. On July 2nd, the divers began work at the site to extract the diesel fuel. Using a system of control and collection devices, divers carefully cut through one of the standpipes and removed oil from it over several days. So far, an estimated 2,500 gallons of diesel fuel has been collected and removed to barges for offsite disposal.

During a subsequent reconnaissance dive, a third standpipe was discovered. Divers then reset the control and collection system over this newly discovered standpipe and cut through it in order to remove the material. At that point it was noted that the odor was more indicative of gasoline than diesel. This may mean that more than one tank is buried beneath the reservoir bottom. The cut standpipe was plugged and secured, and work and safety plans are being updated to reflect the upcoming removal of gasoline.

Work will continue at Pepacton until all material has been removed.

Focus on the Field

Gina Garibaldi-Malozzi has been with DEP since 2001, but in a sense, she has been with us a lot longer than that. Garibaldi-Malozzi is a third generation DEP employee. In fact, there has been a Garibaldi doing wastewater treatment for the city since before DEP became DEP, and Garibaldi-Malozzi is proudly carrying on the family tradition as a Lab Associate at the Oakwood Beach process control laboratory on Staten Island.



Garibaldi-Malozzi and her colleagues conduct various tests on wastewater and sludge samples to ensure that all of the treatment processes are running smoothly. This includes dozens of tests for, amongst other things, chlorides, solids, and conductivity.

Garibaldi-Malozzi began her work at DEP as a summer intern and stayed on during college while she got her bachelor's degree in biology from the College of Staten Island. She loves that she is able to work in a

high-tech job. Although safety is paramount, the work is exciting because she never knows what her analysis will find.

Garibaldi-Malozzi is recently married and still looks fondly on her honeymoon in Europe. When not assessing some of DEP's less savory organic compounds, she enjoys fine dining and shopping. "Almost 12 years later, I never thought I would be fortunate enough to still be working with DEP doing what I love," said Garibaldi-Malozzi. After all, it is a family tradition.

Out of the Archives



Fire Hydrant Spray Cap

New Yorkers have been using fire hydrants to beat the heat since the 1840s. This photograph from 1970 shows the innovative spray cap solution developed by the NYC Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity through the Citywide Employee Suggestion Program. Today, a spray cap reduces the flow of water from 1,000 gallons per minute to about 25 gallons per minute, which enables the hydrants to be used both for recreational and firefighting needs.

With the cooperation of FDNY, DEP continues to install spray caps and locks on hydrants in order to prevent water waste. In addition, DEP started the Hydrant Education Action Team (HEAT) in 2007 to spread the word about the dangers of hydrant abuse in local neighborhoods.

Press Box

THIRST QUENCHERS: "The mercury's rising and the heat waves keep coming. But New Yorkers have managed to stay cool thanks in part to the city's Water-On-the-Go program, which offers the public access to portable drinking fountains across the five boroughs." - from The Wall Street Journal's article on DEP's popular initiative to bring drinking water to public spaces [👉](#)

Kudos Corner



REFRESHING RESPITE: July 4th was hot, and thanks to all the DEP staff who participated on the holiday, Water-On-the-Go was too! Citywide, a total of 16,834 drinkers visited the fountains.

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even many departments within the contracting office had different databases for storing and following the progression of DEP's many contracts. A new system has just been completed to change that. PACT brings these disparate databases together into one location and one format across all bureaus and departments. Not only is it more efficient to have uniformity for all contracts, but the new system is an improvement over any of the individual older databases. PACT was developed and produced completely in-house. The program required the combined efforts of ACCO staff including **Joseph Vaicels, Qusicy Barry, Debra Butlien, Simone Gainey, Aileen Hernandez, Constantino Mendoza, Jeanne Schreiber, Glorivee Roman, Naomi Burrus, Maria Ohringer, Laurie Arena, Greg Hall;** Bureau of Wastewater Treatment staff including **Andy Palmer, Rosalyn Guishard, and Ada Rodriguez;** and Bureau of Customer Services/ Office of Information Technology staff including **Purna Movva, Sunil Gaddam, and Eduardo Lara-Campos.**

One of the best advances for DEP personnel is easy tracking of a given project in real time. It is now extremely clear where each contract is and how long it has been in each stage. **Mary Pazan,** the Agency Chief Contracting Officer, described the improvements:

"PACT answers all the most frequently asked questions about procurements and contracts. It helps Bureaus track their contracts and improve transparency and metrics."

For ACCO staff, the advantages are even more numerous. What once took them hours to accomplish is now done automatically by PACT, and more time can be allocated to other parts of the contract and procurement process, speeding up project completion time for everyone. Furthermore, ACCO generates reports on individual projects and groups of projects based on type or bureau. PACT can make these on its own. With easier search and organization functions, the data can be compiled quickly to make clear and uniform contract reports.

PACT, with all it has to offer, must have taken enormous amounts of time, right? In fact, this tracking program was only started this past September. Less than a year after it was started it is running and almost fully completed. The system was developed and all new contracts were entered into PACT instead of the older databases. Additionally, all old contract data was reformatted and entered into PACT as well.

For both ACCO staff and the agency as a whole, PACT is a huge step forward for everyone.

We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: newsletter@dep.nyc.gov. [👉](#)