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Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Cas Holloway, Commissioner

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A Look Behind the Planning

DEP recently announced the registration of a $15 million contract to restore 38 acres of wetlands and natural grasslands adjacent to the Paerdegat Basin Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Facility located on the shores of Jamaica Bay in Brooklyn. The registration means that the contractor, Tully/Posillico Civil, can begin to mobilize so the stimulus-funded project can get underway.

As construction of the CSO facility nears completion, staff from Deputy Commissioner **Angela Licata's** Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis (BEPA) Office of Ecological Services will take over and implement their innovative and sustainable design principles to help restore lost biodiversity and important ecological functions. These designs and projects are the birth of new ecosystems in the highly urbanized area that is New York City. The tidal wetland and grassland restoration of Paerdegat Basin is just one of the many examples of this ecological transformation that DEP is accomplishing in many parts of the City.

(Continued on reverse side)

Spotlight on Safety

There are different types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for different Bureau of Wastewater Treatment (BWT) Hazardous Operations and Tasks, and BWT has devised a PPE Matrix to assist Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) staff when recommending equipment for staff.

For example, when working with tools, equipment, or materials that can cause severe cuts, lacerations, punctures, or abrasions, the minimum requirement for hand protection is leather, canvas or cloth gloves. They should meet ANSI/ISEA approved standards for leather or equivalent work gloves (American National Standards Institute/International Safety Equipment Association), and should not to be used while working with rotating tools.

As with all PPE, proper training is the key to its effectiveness.

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 EH&S liaison how they can help. If you've still got questions, you can call the EH&S 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

Environmental Protection Commissioner **Cas Holloway** visited the Croton Water Filtration Plant on January 8 with New York City Health Commissioner **Dr. Thomas Farley**. The Commissioners met some of the workers responsible for constructing the facility that will provide up to 290 million gallons of clean and filtered water to the city once completed in 2012. The UV unit, pictured above, is just one of 20 Ultraviolet Light Units installed within the Croton project to disinfect the water after filtration.

The tour was led by the Executive Construction Manager **Bernard Daly**. A professional engineer, Bernard started work with DEP in May 1985 with the water supply construction group. His first project was at City Tunnel #3 and he also worked at Hillview Reservoir. Bernard says that the construction of the Croton Filtration Plant provides him the opportunity to work on a once-in-a-lifetime project.

When completed, the project will ensure that the Croton system remains a reliable, viable part of New York City's vast water infrastructure. The landscape above it—the largest, continuous, intensive green roof in North America—will serve as a model for storm water and groundwater reuse.

The project, which consists of more than ten separate construction contracts, is anticipated to cost approximately $2.8 billion. The plant is one of the largest construction projects ever undertaken in New York City and will ensure the long-term viability of the Croton water supply system for decades to come.

The Croton plant is just one of the many capital projects being managed by the Bureau of Engineering, Design and Construction (BEDC), which is led by Deputy Commissioner **James Mueller**.

Did You Know?

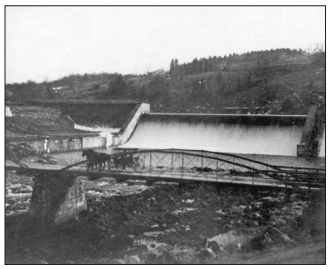
... The Wards Island Wastewater Treatment Plant is home to 13 turtles? Some of the turtles came up through the grit chamber; while others came into the plant through various other process areas.

Focus on the Field

Beth Reichheld is the Program Manager of DEP's Stream Management Program (SMP) in the Kingston office of the Bureau of Water Supply (BWS), led by Deputy Commissioner **Paul Rush**. The SMP is an important part of New York City's long-range watershed protection strategy. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and Environmental Studies, and a Master's in Forest Science from Yale. When starting at DEP in 1992, Beth was among those in on the "ground floor" of developing watershed protection programming for the Bureau under the Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD). She lives in Woodstock with her six-year-old daughter. Active on the town's zoning and comprehensive planning committees, Beth has also co-authored a local stream protection law.

The mission of the Stream Management Program, which was established as part of the FAD, is to restore and protect the natural stability and ecological integrity of Catskill area streams and floodplains in the West of Hudson New York City watershed. The team of dedicated SMP scientists and planners accomplish this by partnering with the region's Soil and Water Conservation Districts, landowners, and key local agencies. Together they design and implement floodplain management strategies, education programs, and stream restoration projects to improve water quality, reduce erosion, enhance ecological integrity, protect infrastructure and reduce the risks from floods. Since 2002 they have completed comprehensive plans for most West of Hudson rivers, created a network of more than 25 restoration projects, and established local field offices to help landowners and communities solve stream-related problems. The SMP team and its partners are working to build a proactive stream stewardship ethic among those living and working in the watershed.

DEP: Then & Now



Then: Old Croton Dam — Work on the 50-foot-high First Croton Reservoir Dam was begun in 1837 and completed in 1842. Sixty years later it would be submerged to make way for the New Croton Reservoir Dam.

Now: Construction of the Croton Water Filtration Plant, Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx. When completed in 2012, it will filter up to 290 million gallons of water a day.

Ask Cas

askcas@dep.nyc.gov

Q. DEP's Intranet is known as Pipeline – a site used by DEP staff to find useful information regarding the agency and the City. Won't calling the new weekly newsletter by the same name lead to some confusion? (Submitted by **Asher Najmuddin**, BWT)

A. Thanks for your question. The Weekly Pipeline is meant to be an extension of the agency's intranet, which is a resource for our six thousand employees. I think "Pipeline" is a great name for the weekly because piping is central to all of our operations; and the weekly serves as a conduit for information to our workforce throughout the City and the watershed.

(A Look Behind the Planning - continued)

John McLaughlin, the Director of Ecological Services for BEPA, is the lead on this project as well as the Penn and Fountain landfill project. He has been with DEP for 17 years and in the ecological restoration field for over 23 years. Working with John is Geologist **Kaled Alamarie**, who plays a key role in providing GIS analysis information for wetland restorations such as Paerdegat Basin, as well as the Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan.

The project is funded through Clean Water State Revolving Funds — a program administered by the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation — that were authorized under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The project will help absorb stormwater by reintroducing local plant life and restoring the shoreline. Five acres of parkland will become an "Ecology Park," which will offer access to salt marshes and a grassland area and will also include educational exhibits about coastal habitats. Construction is expected to begin this spring and be completed in January 2012.

Corrections

The January 5th issue misidentified the employee who led Commissioner Holloway's tour of Hillview Reservoir. Mark Toro, Supervisor of Watershed Maintainers, led the tour.

Saturday, January 9th marked one year since the death of our colleague **Gennaro Montello**, Sewage Treatment Worker, in a tragic accident at the Owls Head Wastewater Treatment Plant. A native of Brooklyn, Gennaro was employed at DEP since 2001. To commemorate his service to the agency, flags were flown at half-staff over the weekend.

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