

A Different Kind of Staten Island Ferry: Tanks, Tunnels and Pipes Bring Water From the Catskills to Silver Lake Park

Bringing New York City's water from our upstate watersheds is never easy. DEP has some of the most skilled operations staff on earth, and our infrastructure is the envy of the world, but moving one billion gallons of water from up to 125 miles every day will always challenge DEP's ingenuity and experience.



Staten Island, home to nearly 500,000 New Yorkers as of a 2009 Census Bureau estimate, presents a special test to DEP's water supply network. As the borough farthest from where the City Water Tunnels begin, DEP had to develop a way to transport drinking water across Upper Bay to Richmond County and store it safely.

Staten Island receives all of the 46 million gallons of water it uses every day from the Richmond Tunnel. Two smaller cast-iron pipes lying on the seabed between Brooklyn and Staten Island act as a redundancy. But because these pipes will be affected by plans to dredge the area, DEP will replace them with a new 6-foot diameter water

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Spotlight on Safety

Flammable Substances and Fire Safety

Flammable substances are so named because they can spread and catch fire easily. Therefore, it is important to identify and take precautions with flammable substances.

Here's how:

- Check labels and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) to identify flammable substances.
- Follow handling and storage precautions to prevent spills and vapor releases.
- Clean up flammable spills and leaks immediately.
- Remove clothing that has absorbed flammable liquids immediately.
- Substitute nonflammable materials in tasks when possible.
- Keep flammable liquids in approved containers that are closed


when not in use.

- Ground containers during liquid transfer so you don't create static electricity.
- Use flammable liquids only in well-ventilated areas away from heat and fire.
- Do not place near heat or cut a container that previously contained a flammable liquid, unless it's been tested and approved for such use.

In addition, handle highly flammable oxygen cylinders carefully. For example, don't handle them with oily hands or gloves. And don't store near combustible materials.

Finally, despite all your precautions, in case a fire does occur, keep routes clear for firefighting and fire evacuation. Remember not to block exits, fire alarms, aisles, or sprinklers.

Commissioner's Corner

Today, I joined **Mayor Bloomberg**, Deputy Mayor **Stephen Goldsmith**, Council Member **James Gennaro**, Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability Director **David Bragdon**, **Eric Goldstein** from the Natural Resources Defense Council, Executive Director of Riverkeeper, **Paul Gallay**, and **Marcia Bystryn**, President of the New York League of Conservation Voters at PS 118 in Queens to unveil the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan , a new city-wide initiative to reduce combined sewer overflows (CSO) and improve water quality in New York Harbor.



Thanks largely to \$7 billion in water quality investments since 2002, the harbor is cleaner and healthier than it's been at any time in the last 100 years. But as the Mayor said today, we have to do more. Combined sewer overflows remain our single biggest challenge to achieving water quality standards, and the Green Infrastructure Plan we submitted to the State Department of Environmental Conservation today is the way to meet that goal that's sustainable, cost effective, and affordable for New Yorkers. And green infrastructure has other benefits—open green space, reduced energy bills, better air quality, and increased property values—that traditional tanks and tunnels (“grey” infrastructure) simply can't provide. Under the plan, the City is committing to \$1.5 billion of direct green infrastructure investments over the next 20 years, and to tightening the rules for stormwater control to generate an additional \$900 million of green infrastructure investment through new development over the same time period.

We estimate that the plan will cut CSOs by more than 12 billion gallons per year by 2030—a 40% reduction—and for \$2.4 billion less in public investment than would be required under a traditional grey strategy. We're

seeking the State's approval and support for the plan, and we look forward to working with them, EPA, and all of the environmental and other stakeholders whose help we'll need to make the Green Infrastructure Plan a success.

Dozens of people at DEP and many other City agencies participated in the development of this sophisticated and comprehensive plan, and I thank all of you for your efforts. I'd like to particularly recognize the efforts of DC for Sustainability **Carter Strickland**, who spearheaded the effort; DC for Environmental Planning and Analysis **Angela Licata**, AC **Esther Siskind**, Director of Planning Projections & GIS **Vlada Kenniff**, Policy Advisor **Chris Hawkins**, Division Chief for Regulatory Planning **Keith Mahoney**, AC for Budget **Joe Murin**, and Director of Stormwater Management Planning **Julie Stein**, for the comprehensive analysis that formed the basis for the plan; and Director of Ecological Services **John McLaughlin**, for managing the construction of more than a dozen DEP pilot projects in the field. I'd also like to thank **Flavia Orlandi** and her team at the Office of Management and Budget for their tremendous work on the plan, and their commitment to making it a success. Thank you all!

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. 

Focus on the Field



Odd Larsen, the Assistant Director of Distribution Operations, knows all about how tough it is getting DEP's drinking water to the 9 million New Yorkers that rely on it. Reporting to **Michael Farnan**, the Director of Distribution Operations, **Ed Coleman**, Assistant Commissioner and **Jim Roberts**, the Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations, Odd began work for the former Department of Water Resources in 1969.

Odd plans DEP's water supply operations, providing direction for major trunk main shut-downs, pressure complaints and water quality issues. He also reviews contract drawings for various projects where water

main replacement, upgrades, or new work is needed. By anticipating issues in NYC's vast water supply network, he can provide solutions for how DEP goes about planning its work. Odd is also in charge of managing the Bureau's Job Order Contracting Unit.

One of Odd's more interesting challenges over the years was managing the former emergency standby water supply system in Nassau County; this system was capable of supplying 30 million gallons of water to NYC every day. Odd remembers maintaining "pumping stations, gate houses, well fields, miles of pipe" to keep this system in good working order.

Odd has worked on various capital projects that will benefit New Yorkers for generations. He has a civil engineering degree from New York University, and a P.E. license from New York State. In his spare time, he likes to "visit new and interesting places where the sky is clear and the environment is clean."

Did You Know?

... over 1,000 acres of upstate land owned by NYC for watershed protection is being used for harvesting hay? There are over 27 projects being used by local farmers for hay. There are an additional 17 projects for other agricultural uses such as tapping sugar maple trees.



Then:

This photo taken in 1910 shows an Ashokan Lower Gate Chamber Valve. Mr **Charles R. Dubois** is standing in the center of the photo wearing suspenders and is the great grandfather of **Mark Dubois**, a current employee at DEP.



Now:

The new control valve here is one of four Larner-Johnson Needle Valves replacing similar valves of the valve system shown in the THEN photo. Mark Dubois, pictured here, is a Watershed Maintainer in the Bureau of Water Supply and is the great grandson of Charles R. Dubois.

Press Box

"We have long believed that carefully regulated drilling in the Marcellus Shale might be feasible, but the state should put the city's watershed permanently off limits. Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the City Council share this view. There are simply too many points in the drilling process where toxic chemicals could escape." – New York Times editorial; September 21, 2010

Read the editorial here [🔗](#)

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main that will be buried deep in the seabed. DEP is coordinating its \$200 million investment in this project with the Port Authority, the Army Corps of Engineers, and other agencies at the State and Federal level. The new steel siphon will have enough capacity to meet the peak demand of Staten Island entirely by itself.

Once water reaches Staten Island, it's stored in the Silver Lake Tanks, the borough's underground reservoir. These subterranean tanks were built 40 years ago to replace an open reservoir in Silver Lake Park; when full, they store 100 million gallons of drinking water.

From there, water is distributed via a network of water mains, and DEP is working to maintain and improve that local network of water distribution and wastewater treatment infrastructure. A number of DEP's Capital Projects on Staten Island—including \$11.5 million in new storm sewers in Port Richmond, \$11.4 million for new sanitary and storm sewers in Tottenville, and a \$2.5 million upgrade of the local chlorination facility—will all promote local water quality and ensure that drinking water reaches New Yorkers there whenever they need it.

DEP Partners with Open House NY to Showcase Newtown Creek Digester Eggs and the Red Hook Sludge Boat

Once again, DEP will be partnering with Open House New York (OHNY) to offer tours of the Digester Eggs at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant during the upcoming OHNY Weekend Event on October 9 and 10. Additionally, tours of the Red Hook sludge vessel are being offered for the first time on October 10 only. Registration [🔗](#) is required for both tours, and will be done online at the DEP website beginning at 9:00 am on Wednesday, September 29. This is a great opportunity for DEP employees to be able to tour these sites as well. Tours are expected to fill up quickly, so if you are interested in attending either or both tours, please register as soon as possible.

Milestones

Congratulations to **Jessica Reyes** and her husband on the birth of their daughter, **Sophia Rae Montes**, on September 18, 2010. All are doing fine.

Election Day is November 2 – Register to Vote Now

Tuesday, November 2, is Election Day, and it's more important than ever that each and every New Yorker have their voices heard. If you've yet to register to vote, there is still time. Simply pick up a form from any of our Bureau of Customer Services locations or visit the NYC Board of Elections website here [🔗](#). The deadline to register to vote in the 2010 general election is October 8.

Please come to a demonstration of the new voting machines on Thursday, September 30, between noon and 2 pm in the Lefrak cafeteria located on the third floor of the high-rise building.

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