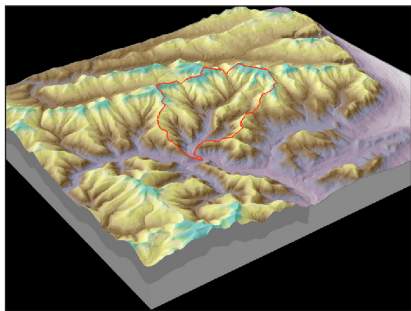


## Maps Quest Puts BWS on the Right Path



**D**EP was recently recognized for its use of technology to modernize its operations at the 30th Annual Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) User Conference in San Diego. There, DEP was awarded with a Special Achievement in Geographic Information System (GIS) award, beating out 10,000 other ESRI users. **Garry Leunis** from the Office of Information Technology was on hand to receive the award on behalf of DEP.

"It is an honor for DEP to be recognized and receive this prestigious award from ESRI at their widely-attended international user conference," said Terry Spies, the Section Chief of GIS.

GIS technology is used throughout DEP for infrastructure and facilities management, particularly in the Bureaus of Water Supply (BWS), Water and Sewer Operations (BWSO) and Wastewater Treatment (BWT). The software can store, analyze, retrieve, and digitally map almost any type of data that has a geographic location referencing it. BWS was one of the first groups within the Agency to take advantage of GIS technology, developing a comprehensive suite of tools to support protection of the water supply. Terry points out that "other DEP Bureaus have equally ambitious plans to continue to

(Continued on reverse side)

## Spotlight on Safety

### The Importance of Auditing

Auditing is a systematic process for verifying compliance and determining the effectiveness of systems and controls.

The goals of DEP's Environmental, Health & Safety (EHS) audit program are to ensure that DEP is in full regulatory compliance with existing applicable federal, state and local EHS regulations, and to determine whether DEP EHS policies and procedures have been properly implemented and maintained. In addition, the audits provide opportunities to train DEP personnel in compliance requirements and

procedures, and to raise awareness regarding Agency EHS goals. The auditing process also helps to identify, recommend and confirm completion of corrective actions required to achieve compliance.

To assure compliance, DEP's Office of Environmental, Health & Safety Compliance has established effective systems to monitor DEP's progress in meeting these commitments.

Click here [to learn more about DEP's Program Improvement/Auditing Policy.](#)

## Commissioner's Corner

Yesterday marked a major milestone as we installed the 417,000th wireless meter reader at the home of Mr. Brooklyn himself, Borough President **Marty Markowitz**. That's 50% of our 834,000 customers, all of whom will be able to track their water consumption online every day when the installation of automated meter reading (AMR) is complete. Thanks to the hard work of BCS Deputy Commissioner **Joe Singleton**, Director of Metering and Conservation **Warren Liebold**, Technical Services Manager **Michael Roach**, and all of DEP's Water Use Inspectors (WUI), we're ahead of our scheduled completion date of January 2012. Standing with me in the picture from left to right are WUI **David Acosta**, Marty Markowitz, **Lauren Collins**, the President of the Windsor Terrace Alliance, and WUI **William Ocasio**. Both William and David successfully performed the AMR installation live on camera—true grace under pressure.

Of course, water consumption is only possible because we have the infrastructure to supply and deliver it, and last week we finished rehabilitating three dams in the Croton watershed that have already served New Yorkers for more than 100 years, and are now prepared to serve for 50 to 100 more. Project managers **Jim Teevan** and **Mike McKenna** oversaw \$51 million of upgrades to the Middle Branch, Titicus and Amawalk dams, which were built in 1894, 1895 and 1897 as part of the Croton reservoir system, and the rehabilitations are critical to ensuring that our oldest watershed can continue to supply the City's water needs. Read more about it here [to learn more about it here](#).

And we took another step forward on water quality in Jamaica Bay by starting \$13.1 million of dredging work in Hendrix Creek, a 7,000 foot tributary of the bay, and completing \$1.3 million of restoration work that added 30,000 salt marsh plantings and 23,000 square feet of grass and shrubland to the



creek [to learn more about it here](#). The dredging will reduce odors in the local community, and the plantings and other restoration work will improve water quality by oxygenating the water and supporting a diverse group of animals to help filter it. Associate Chemist **Dabeiba Marulanda**, Executive Project Manager **Vladimir Radulescu** and Construction Project Manager **Naresh Shah** are leading the dredging work, and **John McLaughlin**, Director of the Office of Ecological Services, **Helen Forgiione**, Deputy Director of the Office of Ecological Services and Project Manager **Samuel Young** in BEPA oversaw the restoration work. While we have a long way to go, this has certainly been a great year for Jamaica Bay, and harbor water quality in general.

Finally, last week, we submitted comments to EPA on its proposed strategic plan for 2011 to 2014. The draft plan, which you can read here [to learn more about it here](#), sets an ambitious environmental agenda for both water and air quality, and we have let EPA know that we are ready and willing to be a partner with them to make the plan a success. In our comments, which you can read here [to learn more about it here](#), we asked EPA to expand its partnerships with the 50 states to include cities like New York (and agencies like DEP) that have made a commitment to the environment and sustainability—and have dedicated resources to back it up. Partnership, collaboration, and an understanding of the challenges DEP and other service providers face are what is needed to continuously improve our environment, and we hope EPA's final plan will fully embrace that approach.

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. [to learn more about it here](#)

## Focus on the Field



In order to make sure that DEP is running as efficiently as possible, and that the Agency continues to fulfill its core missions, DEP employees have to wear a lot of hats and do everything they can. But **Yocanda Baez**, the Section Chief for Administrative Projects, wears more hats than a whole section of debutantes at the Kentucky Derby.

Reporting to **Tamara Brice**, Deputy Chief of Management Services, **Naomi Hamer**, the Director of Management Services, and **Jim Roberts**, the Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations, Yocanda serves BWSO as the Bureau's Equal Employment Opportunity Liaison, the Training Coordinator, the Student Program Coordinator, the Records Management Coordinator, the Audits Liaison,

the CityTime Liaison, and the liaison for your beloved Weekly Pipeline (thanks Yocanda!). She even coordinates Take Our Children To Work Day for BWSO.

Yocanda began working for DEP in 1997 as a College Aide for the Cross Connections Unit in BWSO and in 2000 she was offered a full time position with the Special Project Unit. Her most challenging work to date was working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) so BWSO could be reimbursed for the September 11th recovery. "We worked as a team and managed to pull the information together, meet the deadline, and serve as an example to other Bureaus. At the time, we joked about having 'FEMA fever,' and were later commended for our accuracy when audited."

Since joining DEP, Yocanda earned her B.S. in Business Administration, and is currently pursuing a Master's in Urban Studies. In her spare time, she also reads, dances, spends time with her loved ones, and has recently taken up running as a new hobby.

## DEP: Then & Now

### Then:

No, this is not a movie set for a science fiction movie. This 1952 photo shows the Rockaway Wastewater Treatment Plant. The silver globe is a digester gas holder, and the adjacent tanks are the sludge digesters and settling tanks. At that time, the Rockaway plant was designed to treat 15 MGD. The plant was expanded in 1962 to a capacity of 30 MGD.



**Now:** The most recent upgrade in the early 1970s expanded the plant to its current capacity of 45 MGD. A cylindrical gas holder replaced the spherical one. The settling tanks are now safely surrounded by metal hand rails. Almost all of the digester gas produced is utilized to operate the plant boilers, though some excess gas is flared through a burner. Unlike the 1950s, when sewage sludge was just dumped in the ocean, DEP vessels now pick up Rockaway's digested sludge and take it to a dewatering facility for further processing and finally land application.



## Event Calendar:

### 3 Weeks to go for Water-On-the-Go!



It's been a long, hot summer and DEP has partnered with City agencies and other local organizations to help New Yorkers beat the heat by setting up Water-On-the-Go fountains at public plazas, greenmarkets and parks from July Fourth until Labor Day. Since July Fourth, over 43,000 people have filled up on the City's award-winning, great-tasting tap water, including 5,000+ at DOT's Summer Streets last Saturday, pictured above.

Water-On-the-Go fountains will be out Tuesday through Sunday every week through Labor Day. For specific information, [click here](#).

## Milestones

**Carl Ambrose**, BCIA, 41 years of service.

Congratulations to **Senobar Safafar Lanigan**, BWS, and her husband **J.D.** on the birth of their daughter **Sasha Lucia Lanigan** on 8/5/10. Sasha came in at 8 lbs 5 oz. All are doing well.

## Did You Know?

...the footprint for the Croton Water Filtration Plant required the excavation and removal of 186,000 cubic yards of soil and 920,316 cubic yards of rock; the structure of the plant built inside the excavated footprint requires placement of 235,000 cubic yards of concrete (approximately 23,500 truck loads).

(Maps Quest... - continued)

grow their GIS resources in the areas of facilities mapping and operational support."

But what does that mean? It allows DEP to build databases and query them in nearly infinite ways. So when a user asks "how many acres of forest are located in the Ashokan basin on privately-owned land, but only within 100 ft. of a stream?" the software generates an answer, with locations.

BWS personnel apply the statistical reports and use the maps that the GIS software produces for SEQRA reviews, land acquisition prioritization, water quality compliance monitoring, climate change impact assessment, forestry management and to

model the effects of watershed management programs.

Terry and her staff—GIS Specialist **Jonathan Tuscanes** and WaLIS Database Administrator **Joseph Giannelli**—have degrees in Geography Natural Resources, Geology, Computer Science or related fields, and have received years of post-graduate training and experience with GIS. But recently, many non-GIS-trained DEP personnel have been able to use the program through new database applications. As OIT makes more and more of this service available, DEP's employees will have instant, reliable answers to important questions.

With GIS software, DEP employees will always be able to chart the way forward.

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