

Queens Chapter

New York State Society of Professional Engineers

The Drawingboard

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In This Issue

- President's Message
- Meeting Notice
- NYC Business Initiative
- NYC Rules Update
- DEP Stormwater Guidelines
- DEP OnLine Boiler Registration
- Professional Services and Sponsors

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President's Message

*By George Tavoulareas, P.E.
President gltpe@msn.com*

Our annual NYSSPE conference was held on June 7-8, 2012 in Saratoga Springs, NY. I attended the conference and board meeting with past chapter president **Brian Flynn, PE**. **Michael Hayes, PE** was inducted as the new state President and we wish him well. I have invited Michael to attend our September or October meeting.

Due to the bad economy, the society continues to lose membership and our budget has been negatively affected. Strategies to increase membership and cover the budget gap were discussed. On a positive note, the society continues to monitor legislation in Albany that can have a harmful impact to our profession.

I also attended the open session of the NY State Education Dept. Boards for Engineering and Land Surveying and Interior Design (SED) meeting that was chaired by Executive Director **Jane Blair**. The topic of Special inspections was discussed by the board. Several years ago SED wrote a letter to the NYC Dept. of Buildings explaining state law and informing them that special inspections is the practice of engineering. At the meeting Jane reaffirmed that special inspections is the practice of engineering and that the City is violating state law by allowing firms that are not authorized to practice engineering to perform these inspections. Jane also specifically confirmed that the five special inspections, ie. fire alarm, emergency power systems, sprinkler, standpipe, etc are special inspections and that allowing contractors to

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perform these inspections violates State law. She is going to speak to the enforcement unit about the blatant disregard taken by NYC with special inspections.

The two credit special inspections seminar by the NYC DOB was well attended. We had more than sixty engineers and several architects attend the lecture. The online registration procedure began in May and according to the DOB most of the kinks have been worked out. **Gus Sirakis**, PE also told us that there are more than 40 firms that are registered as Class one agencies and that the Department will post on their website additional firms (other than IAS) that can accredit your firm as a Class one inspection agency.

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting on Thursday June 28, 2012.

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Next General Membership Meeting

The next general membership meeting will be held on Thursday June 28, 2012 at 6:15pm. at 422 Weaver Ave in Ft.Totten, NY

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NYC RULES UPDATE

Proposed Rules Governing the City of New York can be viewed at:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycrules/html/proposed/proposed.shtml>

Proposed NYC rules can be read at the above web site. Please email me your comments regarding any of the rules.

City's Business Customer Service initiative

PRESS RELEASE (excerpts)

Mayor Appoints Tokumbo Shobowale as the City's First Chief Business Operations Officer

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg today announced the launch of the City's Business Customer Service initiative, a major effort to make it easier for businesses to deal with government as they grow and create jobs. The Mayor also appointed Tokumbo Shobowale as the City's first Chief Business Operations Officer, a new, dedicated position that will oversee the initiative and serve as the Administration's lead official ensuring that from now until the end of the Mayor's term, business-friendly practices are made permanent where possible. Shobowale will report to Deputy Mayors Robert K. Steel and Cas Holloway, and will also manage the Administration's existing business acceleration initiatives, including NYC Business Express and the New Business Acceleration Team, and will work closely with other programs like the NYC Business Solutions Centers housed at the Department of Small Business Services and the NYC Development Hub housed at the Department of Buildings. The Business Customer Service initiative includes new efforts to enable businesses to pay license, permit and other fees, including taxes, online; new efforts to make it possible for businesses to apply online for the necessary licenses, permits and other credentials they need to open their doors and operate legally and safely; new efforts to make easy-to-understand information about how businesses can navigate City government readily available; and new efforts to improve the regulatory climate for business by reducing the number of agencies involved in permitting for things like sidewalk cafés. The Administration will also work closely with a group of advisors made up of local business leaders with expertise in business operations and customer service. In her 2011 State of the City address Speaker Quinn announced NYC Business Link, a single point of contact for all the City permits, inspections, and services a small business owner needs. Today's announcement represents a significant step towards meeting that goal. The Administration will report on progress on these initiatives every 90 days from now until the end of 2013. Deputy Mayor for Economic Development Robert K. Steel made the announcement at a breakfast forum hosted by the Association for a Better New York.

"Since the beginning of my Administration, I have worked to make New York City the best place in the world to start a business and see it succeed," said Mayor Bloomberg. "We've made huge strides in making it easier for businesses to deal with government, but there is still more red tape to cut, and we're committed to cutting it. This new initiative is multi-faceted and far-reaching, and it will go a long way toward making sure City government gets out of the way of entrepreneurs who are trying to create jobs and grow our economy."

"Today's announcement brings the city a giant step closer to completing the Council's NYC Business Link Initiative, our comprehensive plan to remove regulatory hurdles and facilitate the growth of small businesses throughout the five boroughs," said City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn. "I believe that the Mayor's new Business Customer Service Initiative, coupled with Council initiatives such as the New Business Acceleration Team, is imperative to continuing to strengthen this important sector of our local economy. I would like to congratulate Tokumbo Shobowale on his new role as the City's first Chief Business Operations Officer, and I look forward to working closely with him, Mayor Bloomberg, and Deputy Mayor Steel on current and future initiatives to make this city the most business-friendly city in the country."

- By the end of 2012 all city applications will be available online for download, so that business owners won't ever have to come in to a city office to pick them up
- Within one year increase by more than 35 percent the volume of applications and renewals that will be processed online, including some of the most frequently used applications like those for Food Service Establishment licenses and renewals of Taxi Medallions
- By the end of the Administration 80 percent of new business applications and renewals will be possible online
- Starting now customers of the NYC Development Hub will be able to pay for their plan inspection and approvals online. So not only will businesses and their architects be able to submit their plans electronically, schedule appointments quickly and not have to come in to have their building plans reviewed, they will not have to set foot inside a city office period because they will be able to pay remotely, too
- By the end of 2012 business will also have a better way to pay online for property taxes, business and excise taxes and ECB violations
- Within one year businesses will be able to pay for all license renewals online
- Over the next year, business owners will be able to visit nyc.gov to check several statuses including licenses being processed, whether plan exams have passed,

dates of scheduled inspections, whether inspections have been passed, and whether permits have been issued.

- By the end of this calendar year, businesses taking advantage of our New Business Acceleration Team to open their restaurants will be able to follow the status of their applications, inspections and plan reviews online.
- NYC is committed to improve the process for “Place of Assembly” – businesses in which 75 or more people gather indoors – permits. We are working to reduce the number of steps in this process by more than 20 percent, eliminating unnecessary steps and an unnecessary handoff between city agencies. We will reduce the time necessary for the process and more importantly to reduce the variability of the processes so that entrepreneurs can better plan their business investments.
- Continuing improvements to the sidewalk café approval process. Since 2003 we have reduced the number of agencies involved in this process from six to three, and cut the approval processing time roughly in half. Facilitated by these changes, the number of sidewalk cafes has grown from 700 to 1100. We would like to work with the City Council to make additional improvements, so that only two agencies are involved – only one agency if the sidewalk café is unenclosed – and to further streamline and shorten the process so responsible businesses don’t have to jump through unnecessary hoops.

DEP Stormwater Guidelines

As many of you are aware, DEP’s stormwater performance standard was published on January 4, 2012. Additional information can be found [here](#) on DEP’s website.

At the same time, DEP published the [Guidelines for the Design and Construction of Stormwater Management Systems](#). These guidelines will be continually updated to reflect any future changes to stormwater rules and the latest technologies and best practices. These guidelines will also include a system calculator to assist developers and licensed professionals in determining space requirements for the most appropriate system when DEP’s stormwater performance standard takes effect in July 2012.

LONG TERM CONTROL PLAN OPEN HOUSE

The NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is kicking off its program to develop Long Term Control Plans (LTCPs) for NYC waterbodies impacted by combined sewer overflows (CSOs) with a Public Open House on:

**Tuesday, June 26, 2012
3:00pm to 8:00pm**

**Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Visitor Center
329 Greenpoint Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11222**

During the Open House, DEP will provide a brief presentation on the LTCP process at 4:00pm and again at 6:30pm.

WHAT IS THE LONG TERM CONTROL PLAN?

A long term control plan consists of a comprehensive evaluation of long term solutions to reduce CSOs and improve water quality in NYC's waterways and waterbodies. The goal of the LTCP is to identify appropriate CSO controls necessary to achieve waterbody – specific water quality standards, consistent with Federal CSO Policy and subsequent guidance.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

At the Open House, you will be able to learn about DEP's current and upcoming efforts to reduce CSOs and how you can provide input on possible solutions. Also, DEP staff will be available throughout the session to answer any questions you may have. Please extend this invite to your friends and colleagues.

To RSVP, please email Shane Ojar at SOjar@dep.nyc.gov or call DEP's Community Partnerships Office at [\(718\) 595-3496](tel:(718)595-3496).

For more information on DEP's CSO program, please visit www.nyc.gov/dep or on www.Facebook.com/NYCWater

Engineering on the Web

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=building-the-hoover-dam>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 08, 2012

No. 38

DEP Launches New Online Boiler and Equipment Registration System to Streamline Compliance Processes For Building Owners

Clean Air Tracking System (CATS) Means Easier Submissions, Quicker Approvals, and Improved Tracking

Marks Major Milestone in Facilitating Compliance with 2011 Heating Oil Regulations

Environmental Protection Commissioner Carter Strickland today launched the Clean Air Tracking System (CATS), a new online program designed to expedite boiler and equipment registrations and renewals, enable online payment of fees, and consolidate registration filings for building owners and property managers. Filers can now register boilers and equipment online, saving paperwork and in-person visits to DEP offices while also reducing the costs of complying with new boiler emissions standards and other requirements of New York City's Air Pollution Control Code. In April 2011, DEP adopted new regulations that require buildings to phase out use of Nos. 4 and 6 heating oil over the next 20 years. CATS streamlines new permitting functions and simplifies interactions with DEP, allowing registrations to be completed within a matter of days instead of weeks. As the CATS program expands, it will offer online registration and permitting for additional industrial processes and materials requiring DEP compliance.

"Last year, Mayor Bloomberg took a bold step to phase out the dirtiest types of heating oils—one of the single biggest steps in years toward improving air quality and public health," said Commissioner Strickland. "CATS will ease compliance with the new rule by saving building owners time, providing an efficient, expedient online filing option. In addition, other filers will be able to use this system, bolstering our efforts to clean the air from all local sources of air emissions and to improve public health."

"The new Clean Air Tracking System should enable apartment building owners and agents to provide their boiler information to DEP in a simplified process directly from their offices, saving valuable time and money," said Rent Stabilization Association President Joseph Strasburg. "We look forward to working with DEP to coordinate implementation of this new service with property owners and agents throughout the city."

DEP requires registration of all boilers with at least 350,000 BTUs of power. CATS allows building owners to track both current and prior registration filings, and combines multiple properties with a single owner or manager under one online account. After logging in, owners can register their email addresses to track registrations and payment histories, and can sign up to receive reminders, alerts, and other messages such as expirations of registration. Prior to the new online system, building owners and managers were required to register boilers in-person or by

mail. Boilers with greater than 2.8 million BTUs of power require Certificates to Operate, which will be obtainable through CATS online by late 2012.

DEP employs more than 40 air and noise inspectors, and manages filings of roughly 30,000 registered boilers and other industrial material and equipment. Streamlined online registration will help ease compliance with new regulations adopted in April 2011, requiring that all buildings phase out use of Nos. 4 and 6 heating oil over the next 20 years. The 10,000 buildings that still burn Nos. 4 and 6 heating oil comprise just 1% of the city's building stock, but generate more annual soot pollution than all cars and trucks in the city combined. Upon full implementation, the new regulations will reduce the amount of fine particles emitted from buildings by at least 63 percent, and could lower the overall concentration of fine particles in the City's air from all sources by 5 percent. The initiative will reduce carbon dioxide by approximately one million metric tons, or over 3 percent of the total needed to meet the *PlaNYC* target of reducing the city's greenhouse gases 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

The initiative to update and improve DEP's air permitting database is a key component of *Strategy 2011-2014*, a far-reaching strategic plan that lays out 100 distinct initiatives to make DEP the safest, most efficient, cost-effective, and transparent water utility in the nation. The plan, the product of nearly one year of analysis and outreach, builds on *PlaNYC*, Mayor Bloomberg's comprehensive sustainability blueprint for New York City.

DEP manages the city's water supply, providing more than one billion gallons of water each day to more than nine million residents, including eight million in New York City. The water is delivered from a watershed that extends more than 125 miles from the city, comprising 19 reservoirs and three controlled lakes. Approximately 7,000 miles of water mains, tunnels and aqueducts bring water to homes and businesses throughout the five boroughs, and 7,400 miles of sewer lines and 95 pump stations take wastewater to 14 in-city treatment plants. DEP employs nearly 6,000 employees, including almost 1,000 in the upstate watershed. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/dep, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nycwater, or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/nycwater.

Contact: Chris Gilbride / Corey Chambliss (718) 595-6600

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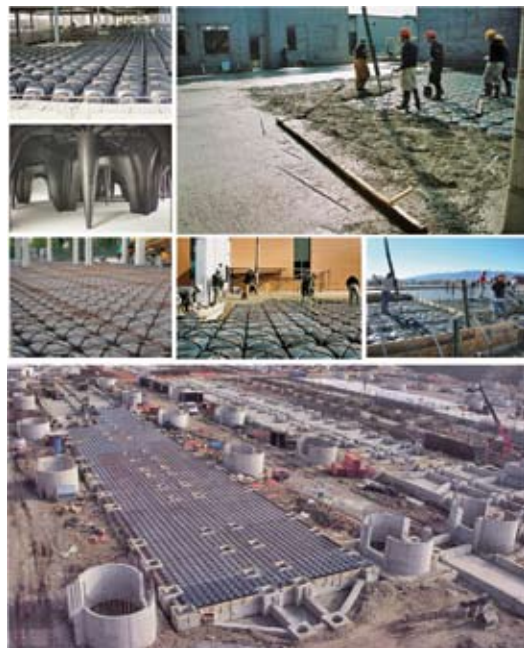
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- Replaces fill or gravel that typically is required to bring the slab to level and eliminates the costs associated with importing, compacting, certifying engineered fill and reduces any risk with post construction settlement of the underlying subbase;
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- Assists designers to deliver Sustainable features which contribute to GREEN or LEED certified building;
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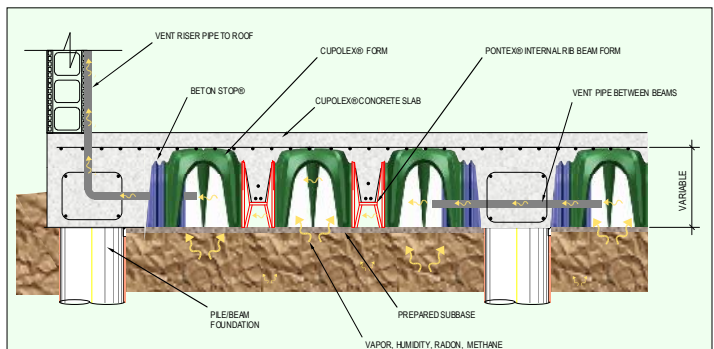
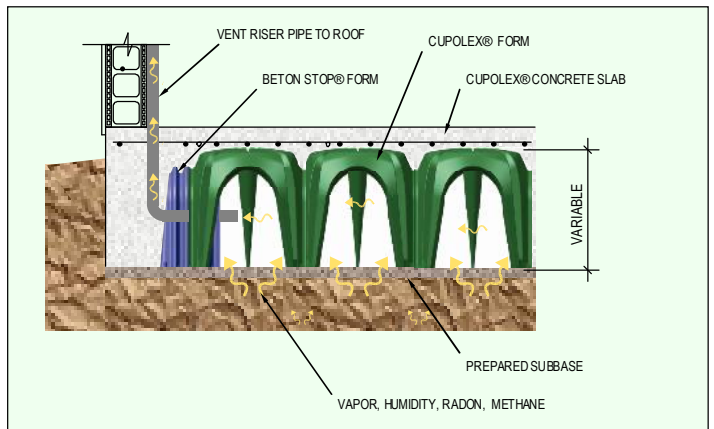
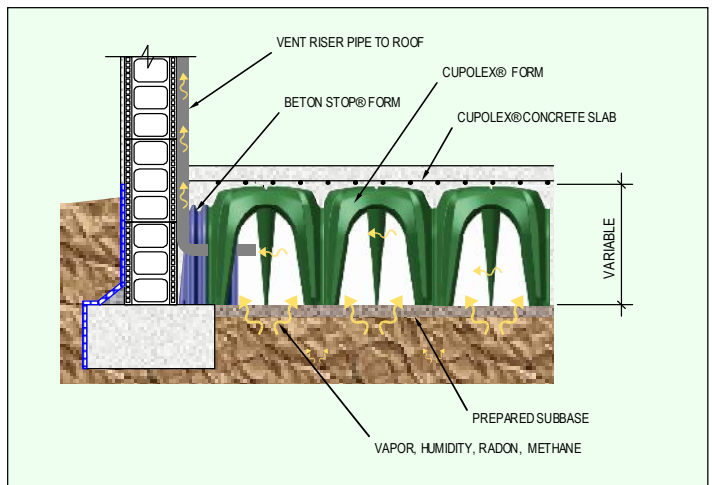
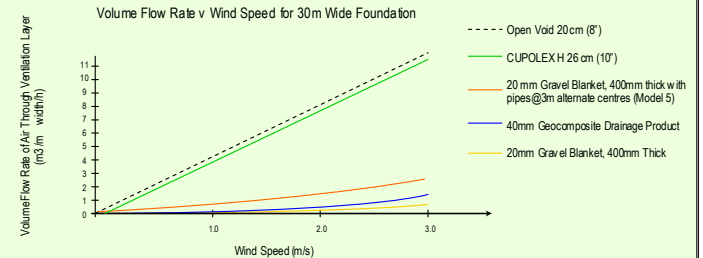
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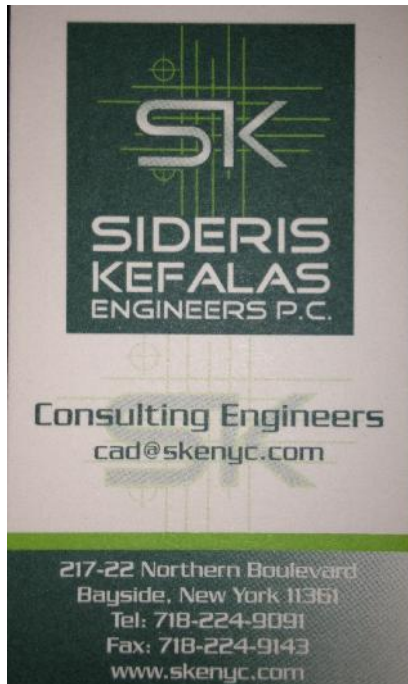
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