

# Earth Day 2012



## Career Profile

**Name:** Sunil Desai  
**Job Title:** Environmental Engineer  
**Location:** Southcentral Regional Office  
**Years with DEP:** 31

### **What kinds of activities do you perform on a daily basis?**

I coordinate and oversee wastewater projects from facility planning through construction as well as review and approval of Act 537 Plans (Official Sewage Facilities Plan). I am responsible for review and approval of design of wastewater facilities and issuing permits (Water Quality Management Part II Permit for construction and operation of Wastewater Facilities). I also conduct construction inspections including review of change orders of Pennvest funded wastewater facilities. After construction, I evaluate project progress to determine whether the Certification of Performance may be approved. I manage many Chesapeake Bay upgrade projects and difficult compliance cases.

### **What kind of educational background do you have?**

I have a bachelor's and master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Bombay, India and the University of Pittsburgh, respectively.

### **What is the most challenging part of your job?**

It is challenging to work with a variety of different circumstances and project innovation particular to the site, stream and community requirements. Allocating proper time and still completing the review of all projects can be difficult, too.

### **What got you interested in working in an environmental field?**

Respect for clean water and environmental health motivated me to work in this field. I have seen this need close up in many areas of my life and am constantly rewarded when needed projects are completed.

### **What is the most rewarding part of your job?**

I feel proud every day knowing that our actions improve water quality and public health of all people in the commonwealth. We work and succeed as a team and knowing that a belief in protecting the environment is shared within our office is most rewarding.

### **What advice do you have for someone thinking about a career in environmental science?**

Pick a career path you like and find the place best suited for you to contribute to a common goal.