

CHEMIST

PURPOSE AND NATURE OF WORK

The work of this class is responsible professional and analytical work in a water or wastewater treatment plant and laboratory involving the performance of chemical and bacteriological testing of water in accordance with standards promulgated by regulating authorities. The work is performed with considerable independence within the framework of divisional policies. Instructions are received through conferences with superiors and performance is reviewed through analysis of operating records and reports. Supervision is exercised over the work of Laboratory Technicians.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK (Note: These examples are intended only to illustrate the various types of work performed by incumbents in this class. All of the duties performed by any one incumbent may not be listed, nor does any incumbent necessarily perform all of these duties.)

Ensures information flow within the lab and provides feedback to the staff. Evaluates all observations about the samples, the analytical system, and analysts' performance. Evaluates any deviations and controls to determine the data's validity. Continuously audits the facilities, equipment, and staff. Inspects and reviews operators' records on various aspects of operation and reports and/or discusses exceptions with superiors. Prepares operating and chemical reports for chemical inventory purposes. Prepares operating reports for submitting to State Board of Health. Helps to evaluate performance of Water or Wastewater Plant Operators. Orders chemicals necessary for laboratory tests. Orders lime, alum, chlorine and any other chemicals necessary for water treatment. Prepares and sterilizes sample bottles and collects bacteriological samples throughout the water or sewage system. Tracks and monitors work products pertaining to Quality Control activities. Recommends appropriate modifications of technical actions to improve work performance and/or the developers of new approaches. Identifies work to be accomplished, establishes short-term priorities and reports technical problems. Recommends appropriate process or quality control modifications to the Regulatory compliance Officer. Coordinates and reviews data generated by analyst and specialist. Coordinates with the Regulatory Compliance Officer to ensure that current SOPs are used and identifies SOPs that need to be developed or modified. Ensures QC criteria are regularly maintained and updated as needed. Performs related work as required.

NECESSARY KNOWLEDGES, ABILITIES, AND SKILLS

Considerable knowledge of the principles applicable to water and wastewater treatment, and the methods used in chemical and bacteriological analysis of water.
Ability to establish and maintain adequate records and reports on laboratory and treatment operations.
Ability to help plan and supervise the work of Plant Operators and Laboratory Technicians.
Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.
Ability to learn membrane filter technique within a reasonable period of time.
Ability to establish and maintain effective relationships with superiors and other employees.

NECESSARY TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Bachelor's degree chemistry or a closely related field or a minimum of four years experience in related field, and two years experience in the area of environmental analysis.

DESIREABLE QUALIFICATION (Depending on area of assignment)

Possess the Class IV-Water Treatment or Wastewater Treatment certification, as issued by the State of Louisiana, within three years of appointment. Possess the Class II Water or Wastewater Laboratory Certification from either the National ABC Board or the Louisiana Environmental Laboratory Analysis Association within five years of appointment. Incumbents in this class prior to the specification revision date must obtain the above certification within two years of the State's adoption of the utility certification compliance program.