

## WATER PLANT OPERATOR

### PURPOSE AND NATURE OF WORK

This is routine, skilled work responsible for operating water production and treatment facilities with substantial independence on an assigned shift. Employees of this class work around toxic chemicals, under varying weather conditions, and shift work. General supervision is received from the Water/Wastewater Plant Operations Supervisor.

**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.)

Observes, regulates, and controls the production and treatment processes to produce safe drinking water through lab analyses. Inspects and operates chemical feeders, agitators, pumps, and related equipment. Records pertinent information and makes simple computations on standard forms concerning the production of treated and untreated water. Supervises and participates in the proper delivery, transfer, and usage of chemicals in water treatment; lifts 50-pound sacks of chemicals on a regular basis. Instructs Water Plant Operator apprentices in the upkeep of various water treatment equipment and other assigned tasks. Collects water samples and tests for hardness, pH, turbidity, alkalinity and chlorine content. Communicates with superiors and others to resolve water production and treatment problems. Cleans assigned work areas to ensure sanitary conditions and prevent accidents.

Performs related work as required.

### NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES, AND SKILLS

Knowledge of procedures, policies, terminology, and equipment used in the production and treatment of water.

Knowledge of occupational hazards and safety precautions associated with water production and treatment.

Ability to understand and follow complex oral and written instructions.

Ability to collect, inspect, record, and report necessary information.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with others.

Ability to use manual overrides in the event of automatic control system malfunctions.

Ability to instruct and supervise subordinates.

Ability to anticipate the public demand of water.

Ability to perform basic mathematical and geometric calculations.

Ability to work in various physical surroundings.

Skill in the loading, transferring, and unloading of various materials and equipment which involves lifting 50-pound sacks of chemical regularly.

### DESIRABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Experience in water plant operation; or any equivalent combination of training and experience.

### NECESSARY SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS

1. Maintain a functional telephone and must be capable of responding to the site within one hour of being notified.
2. High School Diploma or G.E.D.

### APPRENTICESHIP

Positions in this class may be assigned to an apprenticeship as defined by Civil Service Rule IV, Section 6. This requires the employee to complete initial and ongoing training requirements as established by Lafayette Utilities System within six (6) years for continued employment, including the obtainment of a Class IV Water Treatment and Water Production certification administered by the state of Louisiana.