

WASTEWATER PLANT OPERATOR

PURPOSE AND NATURE OF WORK

Positions in this class are responsible for efficiently treating municipal wastewater to environmental standards for effluent, by operating large, complex, partially-automated treatment plants. Incumbents act with considerable autonomy on weekend, holiday and evening shifts while working under the direction of a Chief Operator, and may be responsible for safety, training, oversight and orientation of apprentice operators.

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.)

Reviews conditions of machinery, facilities and biological processes with operators from a preceding shift. Inspects, via computer monitor and periodic walk-throughs, conditions of pumps, seals, screens, blowers, aerators, clarifiers, return pumps, digestors, polymerizing and de-watering equipment, chlorinators and de-chlorinators. Initiates changes in equipment and processes via computer. Manually cleans screens and operates equipment during problems with automated controls. Measures, using instruments or hand sampling, dissolved oxygen, chlorine residual, and conducts cone and centrifuge tests. Makes records as required. Notes needs for repairs, and takes independent action regarding placing units in or out of service. Notifies superiors of severe problems. Receives chemical and supply deliveries, ensures quantity, quality and proper storage. Manually lifts, moves and manipulates tools, equipment and supplies weighing approximately fifty pounds. Acts as required to ensure effluent meets coliform, chlorine and other limits, and to control odors. Performs related work as required.

NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES, AND SKILLS

Thorough knowledge of layout, location, operation and overall purpose of complex activated sludge wastewater treatment plant equipment.

Knowledge of basic requirements of plant biological agents and the activated sludge process.

Knowledge of basic water laboratory equipment, methods and materials.

Ability to operate plant sensing and control computer equipment, interpret displays, analyze problem causes and decide appropriate actions.

Ability to work after-hours, weekends, and holiday shifts, and during emergencies.

Ability to communicate clearly, verbally and in writing, as well as to perform basic arithmetic calculations of volumes, areas, concentrations and flow rates.

Ability to read, understand and effectively use plant equipment manuals, diagrams and troubleshooting guides.

Ability to form and maintain effective working relationships with other operators, mechanics, contractors, employees and the public.

DESIRABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Technical courses related to stationary electric motors and pumps, and /or introductory life sciences; or any equivalent combination of education and experience.

SPECIAL NECESSARY QUALIFICATION

1. High School Diploma or G.E.D.
2. Must be capable of responding to the site within one hour of being notified.

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 Waste Water Treatment certification administered by the state of Louisiana.