

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR I

DEFINITION

Performs a variety of technical activities in the operation of a wastewater treatment plant.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is the entry level position in the Town Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator series. Duties and responsibilities range from conducting routine laboratory tests to cleaning sanitary and storm sewers. Assignments differ from the Waste Operator II assignments by having a lesser degree of responsibility in the overall functioning of the treatment plant.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED

General supervision is provided by the Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor while day-to-day supervision is received from the Wastewater Operator II. After an initial period of employment and training, close supervision should not be required nor expected. Changes in procedures or exceptions in rules are provided as the need arises.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES

Sets pumps and valves; assists with collection system maintenance; reads gauges and enters readings; prepares equipment for sampling wastewater; conducts routine laboratory tests and sampling; provides general maintenance of pump station; handles routine equipment and operation of plant, provides twenty-four hour standby assisted by a call pager.

OTHER DUTIES

Operates and maintains reclamation system; monitors collection system; checks sewers for back-up or other problems; cleans digester box including hosing down and removing blockages; provides general plant maintenance, including cleaning up building and grounds.

QUALIFICATIONS

Experience/Education

Sufficient experience and education to read, understand and record a variety of meters, analyzers and detectors used in a wastewater treatment system. A typical way of obtaining the required qualifications is to possess the equivalent to one year of experience working with mechanical equipment and tools and to have the equivalent to a twelfth grade education.

Knowledge/Skill/Ability

General knowledge of the basic tools, equipment, methods, safe work practices in the operation and routine maintenance used in maintaining pumping and electrical systems. Some knowledge of basic wastewater treatment process and laboratory tests. Basic skill in the safe use of various mechanical hand and power tools and equipment also are required. Additionally, the ability to learn and become proficient

in reading and interpreting meters, gauges and other recording devices; conducting basic laboratory tests; and in adjusting controls and treatment processes located in a wastewater treatment facility are required.

Working Condition

Position requires standing, walking on level and slippery surfaces, reaching, kneeling, bending, stooping, crawling, squatting, crouching and grasping in the performance of daily duties. The use of an acute sense of smelling and hearing is needed in detecting digester and bearing problems. The position also requires both near and far vision while making visual checks of the treatment process and working on equipment. The need to lift, carry and push motors, pipes, valves, fittings, pumps, and other equipment and supplies weighing 50 pounds or more is also required. Additionally, the incumbent works in all weather conditions including wet, hot and cold. The use of lubricating ingredients and working around sewer gases exposes the employee to fumes, dust and air contaminants which may cause eye and skin irritation. The nature of the work also requires the incumbent to climb ladders and walk on scaffolds, to handle noise producing tools and equipment, to drive a motorized vehicle and to work with power tools in wet conditions that exposes the employee to possible electrical hazards.

LICENSE/CERTIFICATE

Possession of a Class B California motor vehicle operator's license and a California Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Grade I certificate issued by the State Water Resources Control Board are required by date of employment. Persons holding a Grade I certificate from another state may be hired but must obtain a California Grade I certificate within six months of employment. Additionally, incumbents must obtain a Grade I Collection System certificate within 18 months of employment.

This classification is subject to the Department of Transportation drug/alcohol testing requirements, including pre-employment testing and random and post accident testing after employment.