

Wastewater Plant Operator

General Statement of Duties

Performs responsible manual and technical work operating and maintaining the City's wastewater treatment plant.

Distinguishing Features of the Class

An employee in this class is responsible for monitoring and operating the City's wastewater treatment plant. Emphasis of work is on making daily rounds of the plant, maintaining records, performing tests, documenting and/or repairing any noted malfunctions, troubleshooting mechanical problems, effluent sampling, and performing related water treatment plant tasks. Work is performed under the supervision of the lead wastewater plant operator or Wastewater Director. Work is differentiated from the Lead Wastewater Plant Operator by having a lower level of certification and having no supervisory responsibility. Work is evaluated for efficient plant operation, accuracy in tests performed, and accuracy in documented results and is checked by reviewing documentation and observation of work in progress.

Illustrative Examples of Work

- Makes regular tours of plant and checks for the proper operation of bar screens, grit collector, engines, generators, pumps, aerators, settling tanks, filters, clarifiers, cooling, water filter, and other equipment and records readings from meters and instruments
- Regulates and adjusts motors, pumps, blowers, valves, and other apparatus based on changing operating conditions
- Collects effluent samples for laboratory analysis and performs routine tests on samples
- Applies chemicals and observes their effect on plant operation
- Skims floatables from settling tanks, cleans bar screens, disposes of sand, trash, and other waste, and washes basins and cleans clarifiers
- Maintains plant building and grounds
- Performs minor or emergency repairs and assists plant maintenance staff as needed
- Performs preventive maintenance duties as assigned

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Knowledge of the operating characteristics and maintenance requirements of a wastewater treatment plant
- Knowledge of state and federal wastewater treatment regulations
- Knowledge of the occupational hazards of the work and necessary safety precautions
- Ability to make decisions about wastewater operations in the absence of a supervisor
- Ability to detect problems in the operation of mechanical equipment and report those problems to a supervisor or the appropriate employee
- Ability to conduct routine wastewater tests, read meters and charts accurately, and record results
- Ability to understand and follow moderately complex oral and written instructions

Physical Requirements

Work in this class requires the exertion of 100 pounds of force or more occasionally, and/or in excess of 50 pounds of force frequently, and/or in excess of 20 pounds of force constantly to move objects. Employee must have the visual acuity to prepare and analyze data and figures, perform extensive reading, conduct visual inspection of small defects or parts, operate a machine, use measurement devices, and to assemble parts at distances close to the eyes.

Working Conditions

Work is subject to inside and outside environmental conditions including extreme heat and extreme cold. Employee is subject to noise, vibration, and hazards, including a variety of physical conditions, such as proximity to moving mechanical parts, electrical current, exposure to chemicals, contact with raw or treated sewage, blood borne pathogens, and atmospheric conditions as well as oils and greases. Employee is required to wear a respirator and other protective devices when necessary. Employee may frequently work in close quarters, crawl space, shafts, man holes, small enclosed rooms, small sewage and water lines, and other areas which could cause claustrophobia. Employee is required to function in narrow aisles, passage ways, and catwalks.

Education and Experience

Completion of high school or GED equivalency supplemented with additional vocation training in mechanics, electronics, or chemistry. Some experience in wastewater treatment is desired. Ability to achieve Grade II Wastewater Certification within two years of hire date.

Special Requirements

Valid North Carolina Driver License

FLSA Status: Nonexempt

Disclaimer

This classification specification has been designed to indicate the general nature and level of work performed by employees within this classification. It is not designed to contain or be interpreted as a comprehensive inventory of all duties, responsibilities, and qualifications required of employees to perform the job. The Physical Requirements and Working Conditions section of this classification may vary from position to position and a more thorough description of these elements can be found in the employee's Position Description Questionnaire (PDQ). The City reserves the right to assign or otherwise modify the duties assigned to this classification.

May 2014