

## WATER/WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:** The work involves the responsibility for working an assigned shift for the actual operation and maintenance of a wastewater treatment plant, dependent on the municipality's type and complexity as defined by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Plant Scoring System and operation and maintenance of a water treatment plant and its distribution system depending on the municipality. An Operator or Assistant Operator (as defined by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Department of Health dependent on the type of facility) is fully proficient in the skills and practices of the trade, with full knowledge of the principals, tools and techniques of the trade. An incumbent may work as part of a crew or as a lead worker on specific projects, may supervise a number of lower level operating maintenance and labor employees, or function in responsible charge on an assigned shift. Work at this level is performed with considerable independence within the framework of established practices, processes and procedures and may be completed with little or no check during progress or on completion. Work is performed under the general supervision of a supervisor in order to ensure that the work meets standards. Does related work as required.

**TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:** The typical work activities listed below, while providing representative examples of the variety of work assignments in the title do not describe any individual position. Incumbents in this title may perform some or all of the following, as well as other related activities not described.

Operates pumps, valves, motors, air compressors and related machinery and equipment;

Performs maintenance work and makes minor repairs to machinery and equipment;

Regulates and adjusts chlorinators;

Washes filter beds and settling basins, if existing;

Takes samples of water for testing;

Makes necessary tests for control of plant operation;

Records readings from meters and gauges;

May treat and dispose of sludge;

Adds chlorine to wastewater;

Takes samples of wastewater for testing;

Supervises the work of subordinate employees;

Assists in the training of new employees;

Keeps daily log of plant performance of shift work and operations;

Performs custodial duties in connection with maintenance of building and grounds.

**FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:** Good knowledge of the practices used and equipment required in the operation and maintenance of a water treatment plant; good knowledge of the practices used and equipment required in the operation and maintenance of a wastewater treatment plant, working knowledge of the principles and applications of physics, chemistry and bacteriology as applied to wastewater treatment and disposal; working knowledge of the principles and applications of physics, chemistry and bacteriology as applied to water purification; skill in the operation and repair of pumps, valves, and related mechanical and electrical equipment; ability to read, understand and record data from gauges, scales and meters; ability to make routine laboratory and field tests for control of plant operation; ability to understand and carry out oral and written instructions; mechanical aptitude; alertness and dependability; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Either:

- A. Possession of a high school diploma or its equivalency and six (6) months work experience in the operation and maintenance of a water treatment plant for individuals appointed to a water treatment plant without facilities for filtration; **OR**
- B. Possession of a high school diploma or its equivalency and one (1) year of work experience in the operation and maintenance of a water treatment plant with facilities for filtration, for individuals appointed to a water treatment plant with facilities for filtration

**Special Requirement:** At the time of appointment candidates must possess certification as a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator relative to the municipality's facility type issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation under Part 650, and must maintain certification during the course of employment. Certificate qualifications shall consist of education, training and practical experience as defined in Part 650 of the Department of Environmental Conservation regulations and must possess certification as a Water Treatment Plant Operator relative to the municipality's facility type issued by the New York State Department of Health under Part 5 of the State Sanitary Code, and must maintain certification during the course of employment.

ULSTER COUNTY  
7810 W/W TPO  
Classification: Competitive  
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Adopted: July 28, 2003