Wastewater Operator

FLSA Status: Covered
Bargaining Unit: District Council of Trade Unions (DCTU)

General Summary

Positions in this broad class perform operational duties and troubleshoot wastewater treatment processes, equipment and controls to ensure plant regulatory and safety compliance.

Wastewater Operator Trainee - 30000159

Distinguishing Characteristics

The trainee level of this class typically assists with and learns to perform the full range of wastewater operator tasks under the instruction of a journey Wastewater Operator and as active participant in a training program.

Typical Duties/Examples of Work

Assists in and learns to perform the full range of Wastewater Operator I tasks.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Knowledge of: basic wastewater operations

Ability to: communicate effectively; read and follow instructions

Special Requirements

Valid state driver's license

Classification History:

Adopted: 2-03-99:

Class created as a result of DCTU Classification and Compensation Study 1998-99. This class is composed of the following classes:

1808 Waste Water Operator Trainee (No Class Spec Available)

June 2009 - Change Job Class number from 1808 to 30000159, due to system change.

Wastewater Operator I - 30000160

Distinguishing Characteristics

The entry level of this class typically performs routine maintenance, and assists with operating plant equipment.

Typical Duties/Examples of Work

1. Cleans equipment and areas; transports and moves materials; operates equipment as needed.

2. Maintains safeguards and awareness related to hazards of wastewater treatment; reports problems and incidents as necessary.

3. Maintains records, supplies and equipment; carries out all required safety procedures.

4. Performs routine facilities maintenance duties.

5. Performs related duties as assigned.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Knowledge of: processes, techniques and all applicable safety practices, tools, and materials of wastewater treatment equivalent to that required for Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I certification

Ability to: maintain records; communicate effectively; establish and maintain effective working relationships with co-workers; work constructively in a team

Skill in: use of tools and power equipment; maintenance procedures; following safety procedures

Special Requirements

Valid state driver's license; other licenses or certifications may be required.

Classification History:
Adopted: 2-03-99:
Class created as a result of DCTU Classification and Compensation Study 1998-99. This class is composed of the following classes:
1810 Waste Water Operator I Adopted:12-16-75
Revised: 09-19-78; 11-25-91; 05-25-95
June 2009 - Change Job Class number from 1810 to 30000160, due to system change.

Wastewater Operator II - 30000161

Distinguishing Characteristics

The journey level of this class typically performs all class duties. Its responsibility for a process and making process control decisions for the operation and routine

maintenance of the wastewater treatment facility distinguish it from the Wastewater Treatment Operator I.

Typical Duties/Examples of Work

1. Ensures proper operation and control of assigned process area; operates equipment of the wastewater treatment plant such as pumps, bar screens, clarifiers, boilers, digester's, sludge pumps, blowers, aerators, chlorinators, control panels, composter, sludge thickening and sludge de-watering equipment; monitors equipment controls and takes corrective action to ensure effective equipment operation.

2. Operates, monitors and controls a vast network of pumps, bar screens, conveyers, grit, air and chemical systems. Makes operational decisions including pumping rates and dosage adjustments, and whether to bring equipment on-line or take it off-line. Trouble shoots equipment failures and identifies maintenance needs. Coordinates maintenance and repairs with other work groups.

3. Operates monitors and controls primary and secondary digesters, thickeners, and classifiers and transfer pumps, including gas boilers.

4. Operates and monitors water treatment control network screens including communications with and between Tryon Creek Plant, headworks, secondary and influent flows, bypass gates, chlorine facility, sewage pumps, aeration basin, aeration blowers and plant security; provides constant monitoring of chlorine flows and oxygen levels; calculates waste flows and sets wasting levels.

5. Operates, monitors, controls and adjusts belt presses and gravity belts; performs lab tests of cake solids and makes adjustments for efficient output and chemical polymer use; keeps and maintains accurate records of process and lab results to ensure sample protocol and regulatory requirements.

6. Operates, monitors, controls and adjusts Bio and Cure Reactors; determines feed mixtures and process strategies; performs sold content tests and monitors temperatures and aeration needs of the system.

7. Operates, monitors, controls and adjust booster pump station, diesel dredges and recycle pump station; oversees lagoon system including ground and dredge maintenance.

8. As assigned may direct the work of others; responsible for worker safety reviews the work of Operator I personnel; and makes suggestions for improved performance; provides support to Lead Operator.

9. Maintains Chlorine response readiness at all times; responds to and handles emergency situations; provides essential services for treatment plant weather related or other emergencies.

10. Performs related duties as assigned.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Knowledge of: processes, techniques and all applicable safety practices, tools, and materials used in wastewater treatment equivalent to that required for Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator II certification. Process control equipment and process troubleshooting techniques; processes and chemicals used in testing and treating; pumps and pumping equipment; wastewater laboratory, sampling and testing procedures; computers

Ability to: maintain operational processes and procedures independently

Skill in: use of tools, power equipment, and specialized process related equipment; providing lead direction to staff, including assisting and reviewing work

Special Requirements

Valid state driver's license; Operator III level certification desired; crane certification may be required; Air pack use qualified.

Classification History:
Adopted: 2-03-99:
Class created as a result of DCTU Classification and Compensation Study 1998-99. This class is composed of the following classes:
1811 WasteWater Operator II Adopted: 00-00-00
Revised: 03-19-85 11-01-92 (Class consolidation, 1330 Dredge Operator I, 1331 Dredge Operator II and 1811 Wastewater Operator II, as a result of contract negotiations 1992)
05/25/95
June 2009 - Change Job Class number from 1811 to 30000161, due to system change.

Wastewater Operator, Lead - 30000162

Distinguishing Characteristics

The lead assignment level of this class typically performs all class duties and in addition serves as a lead responsible for the direction and process control of a designated shift or process area, leading and directing employees and organizing

tasks and projects. It is distinguished from the Wastewater Operator II class by the lead assignment. Note: This is a premium pay class for assignment of lead duties. Employees do not accrue seniority or obtain status in this class. Employee is assigned from a base class.

Typical Duties/Examples of Work

1. Serves as Wastewater Treatment Plant Lead for work unit. Plans, schedules and coordinates work; determines resource needs of work unit; directs work of a crew or work group; coordinates maintenance and repair assignments with other crafts. Performs and/or monitors performance of process control analyses; interprets results and make process adjustments.

2. Provides shift and/or process leadership to wastewater treatment facility operators; organizes and plans on a shift basis; informally counsels and coaches employees under leadership.

3. Reports obstacles and/or process operation issues to Operations Manager; provides training of operators with emphasis on safety and process operations.

4. Assists Manager in coordination of operational needs; directs coordinates and performs operational maintenance projects and tasks.

5. Maintains time records; prepares shift and process logs and reports.

6. Serves as incident commander for crises until relieved, such as for chlorine response; activates callout and emergency notification systems to notify management of process problems, bypasses and maintenance needs requiring immediate attention.

7. Performs related duties as assigned.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Knowledge of: wastewater treatment industry hazards applicable to the policies, procedures and regulations governing safe operations; broad operational requirements; and maintenance procedures effective principles and practices of leadership; training of others

Ability to: schedule and assign the work of others

Skill in: demonstrating techniques to others; providing training to others; providing lead direction to staff, including assigning and reviewing work; providing technical guidance to others

Special Requirements

Valid state driver's license; Operator IV level certification desired

Classification History:
Adopted: 2-03-99:
Class created as a result of DCTU Classification and Compensation Study 1998-99. This class is composed of the following classes:
1814 Waste Water Operator II Lead Adopted 11-25-88
June 2009 - Change Job Class number from 1814 to 30000162, due to system change.

Working Conditions

Work in this class is typically performed in a wastewater treatment plant environment. Incumbent is typically required to lift up to 50 pounds; to work outdoors in all weather conditions; to be exposed to hazardous chemicals, fumes and materials; to work in confined spaces and at heights; to be exposed to high noise levels from industrial machinery; to be called back to work during emergencies.