

LOAD DISPATCHER

Code 5233

JOB PREVIEW

The City of Los Angeles seeks to employ well-qualified individuals who have an interest in working as a Load Dispatcher within the Department of Water and Power.

All entry-level Load Dispatcher positions are training positions. Often, candidates are attracted to the positive aspects of the job, while ignoring some of the less appealing features. We feel it is important for candidates to have a clear understanding of the job so they can decide if this is a job they have an interest in doing and the ability to do well.

The job factors listed below are realistic features of the Load Dispatcher position about which many applicants are unaware. We strongly suggest you consider these factors to determine if this position fits your career goals.

- Monitors and controls an assigned portion of the power system through the use of Supervisor Control and Data Acquisition Systems (SCADA), Energy Management System (EMS), telephone, radio, computer and internet based systems.
- Directs switching to remove lines and equipment from service for routine or emergency work, issues necessary work authorities, and coordinates restoration of service.
- Follows standardized instructions and procedures.
- Provides notification of system changes and events to affected Business Groups and to Management.
- Coordinates and executes the purchase, sale, and scheduling of electrical energy and associated services in accordance with contracts and prearranged and real-time schedules.
- Computes and analyses electrical and hydraulic data with respect to Power System operations.
- Checks meters to insure continuity of service and proper maintenance of load schedules, system voltages, and interchange of power with other utilities and municipalities.
- Coordinates the activities of various units in placing new equipment into service.
- In conjunction with supervisors, utilizes independent action to maintain reliable service, safeguard power system and private property, and maintain safe conditions for employees and the public.
- Analyses emergency situations and adopts a quick, effective, and reasonable course of action.
- Maintains accurate records in computer systems, logs, and diagrams through the use of computer equipment and by handwritten documentation.
- Reads and interprets system diagrams and various meter and instrument readings and indications.
- Monitors the dispatcher's diagram board for indications of system trouble and for guidance in planning and writing switching programs.
- Prepares various operating reports.
- Performs multiple tasks simultaneously with minimal assistance.
- Works various shifts to support a 24/7 operation, including weekends, holidays, and overtime on a regular basis.
- All trainees must complete an intensive three week evaluation period, a five week classroom training period, and the first phase of on-the-job training within nine months. All trainees must complete the remaining phase of the on-the-job training and be assigned to a permanent position within eighteen months.