



CLASS SPECIFICATION

11-18-88

WASTEWATER TREATMENT OPERATOR, 4123

Summary of Duties: Operates wastewater treatment, sludge processing, and sludge disposal, or other related equipment at a wastewater treatment plant; or serves as a lead worker in such work; and does related work.

Distinguishing Features: A Wastewater Treatment Operator is responsible for the routine operation of a unit of the Hyperion Treatment Plant, or the routine operations of all units at the Tillman, Terminal Island, or Los Angeles-Glendale Plant, on one shift. An employee of this class adjusts automatic and manual controls for a wide variety of valves and equipment which regulate the processes involved. Adjustments are made in accordance with operating orders, observed variations in operating conditions, and interpretations of meter and gauge readings and test results. This employee is normally responsible for the lubrication of equipment and the recognition and reporting of needed repairs. Supervision is received through standing or special operating orders, periodic field inspections, and special instructions from a lead Wastewater Treatment Operator, a Senior Wastewater Treatment Operator, or Shift Superintendent Wastewater Treatment. A Wastewater Treatment Operator may direct one or more employees in the performance of lubricating, housekeeping, and routine operating tasks.

A Wastewater Treatment Operator may serve as a lead worker for a section of the Hyperion Treatment Plant or of all sections at the Terminal Island, Los Angeles-Glendale, or Tillman operation on one shift. As a lead worker an incumbent of this class may instruct and direct Wastewater Treatment Operators and their helpers in the operation and routine maintenance of the equipment, and coordinate the work of the units within a section and the work of that section with the work of other sections of the plant. On the day shift, an incumbent of this class may serve as assistant to a Senior Wastewater Treatment Operator and act for the Senior in their absence. On the night, weekend, and holiday shifts a Wastewater Treatment Operator works under the general direction of a Senior Wastewater Treatment Operator and refers problems of an urgent nature to the Shift Superintendent Wastewater Treatment on duty.

The working conditions in this class are unpleasant due to the presence of wastewater and its products. Some personal hazards are involved in working in high places, around moving machinery, and in contact with toxic gases and chemicals, such as chlorine, sulfur dioxide, or coagulants.

Example of Duties:

- Opens and closes valves manually or by remote control and operates mechanical equipment which regulates the flow and treatment of wastewater or sludge;
- Starts, stops, and regulates electric motors, centrifugal and positive displacement pumps, bar screens, grinders, grit collectors, air compressors, chlorinators, washers, grease

- skimmers, gas burners, vibrating screens, conveyors, and related equipment;
- Makes minor mechanical adjustments such as tightening a pump gland to stop a leak;
 - Carries out operating orders in the plant, or unit of the plant to which assigned, according to interpretation readings of meters, gauges, and other control and measuring devices;
 - Performs routine preventative maintenance, such as lubrication;
 - Maintains a shift log of unit operations and records readings of meters and gauges;
 - May prepare operational reports, work orders, and requisitions;
 - Reports need for mechanical repairs;
 - May direct employees in performing routine operation and maintenance duties;
 - May perform simple laboratory tests;
 - May act as a lead worker over Wastewater Treatment Operators and other employees at the Tillman, Los Angeles-Glendale, or Terminal Island operation, or in a section of the Hyperion Treatment Plant which may include two or more processes such as preliminary treatment, primary treatment, aeration, final sedimentation, effluent pumping, sludge digestion, sludge screening, gas distribution, and sludge pumping;
 - Operates or directs the operation of the North Outfall Treatment Facility, emergency diversion facilities, or experimental treatment pilot units;
 - Instructs operators in work methods;
 - Coordinates the operations of the units of a section or of the overall operations of a plant on an assigned shift;
 - Maintains records and controls operations as indicated by gauges, meters, and other indicating and measuring devices;
 - Prepares time cards for crews;
 - Reports unusual and other pertinent operating occurrences to the Senior Wastewater Treatment Operator or the Shift Superintendent Wastewater Treatment;
 - Notifies the Senior Wastewater Treatment Operator or Shift Superintendent Wastewater Treatment in case of a serious emergency;
 - May act for the Senior Wastewater Treatment Operator in their absence;
 - May occasionally be assigned to other duties for training purposes or to meet technological changes or emergencies.

Qualifications

Knowledge of:

A working knowledge of:

- Operation and routine maintenance of wastewater treatment and sludge disposal plants and equipment;
- Hazards and necessary safety precautions in a wastewater treatment plant;

A general knowledge of:

- Wastewater treatment and sludge processing and the results to be obtained at the various stages;
- Chemical and biological reactions in the wastewater treatment and sludge digestion processes.

Ability to:

- Lubricate and make minor adjustments of vales, pumps, screens, conveyors, and other treatment plant equipment;
- Recognize and report the need for repairs to treatment plant equipment;
- Make basic mathematical computations;
- Take, record, and interpret readings of meters and gauges;
- Communicate in writing in order to maintain a daily operating log;
- Communicate verbally in a clear and effective manner;
- Act quickly and competently in emergencies.

Requirements: One year of experience in the operation or mechanical maintenance of wastewater treatment plant equipment or other plant processing equipment of similar size and complexity which includes liquid purifying processes; or completion of 15 semester units or 22 quarter units in accredited wastewater treatment classes at a recognized college or university is required for Wastewater Treatment Operator.

License: A Grade I Certificate or a Grade I Operator-in-Training Certificate for Operation of Wastewater Treatment Plants issued by the California State Water Resources Control Board is required no later than three months after the effective date of appointment for Wastewater Treatment Operator. An Operator-in-Training must obtain a Grade I Certificate within the time limit set by the State Water Resources Control Board or be terminate.

A valid California driver's license may be required as a condition of employment.

Based on Cal/OSHA Regulations, Departmental Regulations require the wearing of a Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) under hazardous and emergency conditions. Therefore, as a condition of employment, all employees in the class of Wastewater Treatment Operator must ensure they are free from certain types of facial hair and medical conditions so that a SCBA can be worn safely.

Physical Requirements: Strength to perform average lifting up to 35 pounds and occasionally up to 70 pounds in making minor mechanical adjustments; body ability and equilibrium involved in activities such as climbing and balancing; good speaking and hearing ability; and good eyesight.

Persons with disabilities may be able to perform the essential duties of this class with reasonable accommodation. Reasonable accommodation will be evaluated on an individual basis and depend, in part, on the specific requirements for the job, the limitations related to the disability, and the ability of the hiring department to reasonably accommodate the limitations.

As provided in Civil Service Commission Rule 2.5 and Section 4.55 of the Administrative Code, this specification is descriptive, explanatory and not restrictive. It is not intended to declare what all of the duties, responsibilities, and required qualifications of any position shall be.