

# **WASTEWATER OPERATOR I**

## **JOB PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

This is the entry level classification into the Wastewater Operator series. Incumbents perform a variety of technical work in the operation and maintenance of the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment facility. Typical duties include operation, inspection, adjustment, installation, repair, and preventative maintenance of equipment typical of a modern wastewater treatment facility.

Work is reviewed through inspection of operating reports and records, water quality tests, and on-site inspections. Positions report to the Lead Wastewater Operator, who works closely with the Wastewater Operations Manager.

## **CLASSIFICATION DISTINCTIONS**

Positions within this classification series are “alternately staffed,” meaning they are designed to promote incumbents to the highest classification level in accordance with the required qualifications. The key distinguishing factor among classifications is the level of Washington State Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator’s Group certification – I, II, or III – held by the incumbent and the years of direct experience in the field. (The State Department of Ecology establishes Washington State certification requirements, including minimum years of experience.)

- Incumbents require a Group I certificate. Performs routine tasks under well established procedures and/or perform higher level tasks under close supervision in a training capacity.
- The next level of Wastewater Operator is distinguished from Level I by requiring a Group II certificate. Incumbents in this classification perform highly skilled technical work with considerable independence and operate within a broad set of work parameters.

## **KEY OR TYPICAL TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Incumbents at all levels are responsible to perform the full range of operations duties, from the most basic tasks to the highest level tasks according to their knowledge and abilities. A Wastewater Operator III performs all the tasks of an Operator I, including cleaning tanks, screens and basins. A Wastewater Operator I trains in all operations areas and processes, assisting and working under the guidance of other staff until proficiency is gained.

Incumbents follow standard procedures for accurate process control and laboratory testing, with emphasis on maintaining compliance with established water quality standards through the effective operation of all equipment involved in the waste-water treatment process.

## Clark County, Washington

- Operate, maintain and repair equipment commonly found in a Class III and/or IV wastewater treatment plant such as pumps, preliminary and primary treatment systems, clarifiers, blowers, disinfection equipment, valves, piping and distribution systems, secondary treatment systems and solids processing equipment.
- Collect and preserve samples following established procedures and perform routine laboratory analysis and process control tests on wastewater, sludge and biosolids such as: BOD, TSS, DO, pH, volatile acids, alkalinity, settleability, microbiological examination and identification, and others as required to monitor and maintain water quality standards.
- Accurately observe, calculate and interpret results of laboratory and process control tests and take corrective action to ensure compliance with established water quality standards and the NPDES permit.
- Prepare and maintain accurate records and perform complex calculations using a computer.
- Accurately read and record information from various gauges and meters associated with the treatment plant.
- Use a complex computer system to operate plant equipment from remote locations.
- Monitor, troubleshoot and diagnose equipment for proper operation and malfunctions. Take remedial and corrective action when appropriate and use a computer to initiate and track work orders.
- Maintain effective working relationships with plant staff, outside vendors, regulatory agencies, other County departments and the public.
- Perform routine maintenance on plant equipment using and operating a variety of shop equipment. Assist the maintenance staff with preventative and corrective maintenance as assigned.
- Train and provide general direction to less experienced treatment plant employees assisting with operation and maintenance work.
- Perform general housekeeping duties and grounds maintenance.
- Clean tanks, aeration basins and industrial buildings.
- Perform related duties assigned.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

- Must possess either a Washington State Group I Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's Certificate, or a Washington Operator in Training (OIT) certificate, with the ability to upgrade within 6 months of hire.
- A valid motor vehicle operator's license.

**Knowledge of:** Federal, State and Local environmental regulations applicable to water quality standards associated with the effective operation and maintenance of an activated sludge wastewater treatment facility; machinery, equipment, materials, and operating procedures of a modern wastewater treatment plant; standard processes and chemicals used in testing and treating wastewater; occupational hazards and safety precautions applicable to the work; practices and process control methods commonly used in wastewater treatment facilities.

**Ability to:** effectively and efficiently operate all plant equipment and conduct routine tests; make accurate readings and keep operational records; diagnose equipment malfunction and take corrective action; perform routine maintenance tasks; instruct and provide technical guidance to less experienced co-workers; establish and maintain effective working relationships with other employees; detect and correct defects in assigned equipment; comprehend and interpret complex technical data; use a computer to generate reports, calculate algebraic equations for process control and related performance measures; follow written and oral instructions; effectively communicate both formally and informally with others; operate a motor vehicle; wear and properly use Personal Protective Equipment and perform all work in a safe manner.

## **WORK ENVIRONMENT AND PHYSICAL DEMANDS**

Employees in this category work in all types of climates, both indoors and outdoors. Work may be performed in adverse weather and environmental conditions. This includes working in and around raw sewage, in small and often awkward positions. Work may be performed from ladders or scaffolding and possibly in hazardous atmospheres. Phone contact with vendors or the public may be required on a regular basis. Employees are subject to shift work, may work alone, and will be subject to perform on-call duties 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Physical demands include but are not limited to standing, crouching, climbing stairs and ladders, reaching, twisting, repetitive motion and lifting.

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