

## PLANT OPERATOR I

### DEFINITION

Under general supervision of a Plant Supervisor or Plant Operations Foreman and under the direct surveillance of a journeyman Plant Operator, performs routine mechanical and manual tasks in the processing of wastewater in a water pollution control plant.

### TYPICAL TASKS

Makes regular and continuous tours of assigned wastewater or sludge processing areas monitoring the performance of operating equipment and effectiveness of treatment processes; cleans bar screens, wet wells, tanks and other equipment, and skims grease; inspects, lubricates and cleans power drive pumps and related mechanical equipment; performs minor maintenance on plant equipment, adjusts or replaces packing on pumps and performs mechanic helper duties on major maintenance items; operates valves, pumps, gates, comminators, other controls and equipment to move wastewater and sludge through the various steps of processing and treatment; collects samples of wastewater and sludge at prescribed stages and time intervals in the treatment cycle and may make basic temperature, residual chlorine, settleable solids, hydrogenion and dissolved oxygen tests; reads meters, gauges and other instruments recording observations on operating log sheets; as directed may adjust chlorinating and other chemical treating equipment to control and physical, chemical and bacteriological characteristics of wastewater or sludge; performs general housekeeping and such other tasks as may be assigned.

### DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This class is the entry level for water pollution control plant operators. Work is performed within standard plant operating policies and procedures. Tasks range from routine manual work to the performance of more difficult and complex mechanical and technical duties in the processing and disposal of wastewater and sludge. Employees in this class may progress to the journeyman level, Plant Operator II class based on demonstrated abilities and qualifications to assume greater responsibilities as well as attainment of knowledge and skills required of a journeyman in this speciality.

### EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

Completion of the tenth grade and four years of work experience, or graduation from high school and two years of work experience.

A maximum of two additional years of mechanically oriented work experience may be substituted on a year for year basis to meet the basic education requirements.

In addition, documentary evidence indicating satisfactory completion of a vocational training program in wastewater treatment or the mechanical trades may be substituted for one year of either educational or work experience requirements.

Ability to perform manual labor; aptitude for performing general mechanical tasks, operating power driven equipment and learning technical processes relating to wastewater treatment processes including the reading, interpreting and recording of instrumentation data; willingness to serve on rotating work shifts and assume responsibility as a part of an operating team.

13050