

*Code: 2718*

*Title: WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR - PRINCIPAL*

**SUMMARY:** Supervises and participates in the operation of a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) as the facility/system-certified principal operator for an assigned shift.

**DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:** (Work assignments may vary depending on the department's needs and will be communicated to the applicant or incumbent by the supervisor.)

Assigns work to operations staff and coordinates maintenance staff at a wastewater treatment plant on a designated shift;

Leads, trains and participates in the evaluation of assigned WWTP operations staff;

Coordinates facility/system operation, maintenance and repair activities with other shift leaders, operations and maintenance staff to maximize operational readiness and regulatory compliance;

Monitors computer, metering devices and laboratory data and adjusts or directs adjustment of treatment processes to comply with industry standards, regulatory requirements, permitted functions and system operating procedures;

Directs the collection, documentation and analysis of effluent of various treatment processes;

Evaluates and trouble-shoots equipment malfunctions or breakdowns and initiates or directs initiation of emergency operating procedures;

Maintains equipment and systems operations, maintenance and repair logs and compiles and submits recurring, routine and special reports to supervisors and management;

Performs process-control laboratory analysis of wastewater samples, interprets data to adjust treatment operations;

Cleans and maintains work areas and equipment;

Applies industrial safety practices.

#### **KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS:**

Knowledge of:

- principles of operation of wastewater treatment processes and equipment;
- operation of mechanical equipment;
- regulatory and technical requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) the Asia-Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate (APP) and Reuse Permits affecting the WWTP facility/system;
- techniques and procedures utilized in wastewater chemistry and their application in wastewater treatment operations;
- basic mathematics;
- principles of operation of the individual treatment processes used at the assigned plant or facility;
- hazardous material handling and communication standards;
- industrial safety practices;
- principles and practices of employee supervision, training and evaluation.

Skill in:

- interpreting computer and laboratory data and adjusting plant operations accordingly;
- operating mechanical equipment;
- evaluating and trouble-shooting equipment malfunctions and performing or directing performance of operator-level repairs;
- using industrial safety procedures on the job;
- maintaining operations, maintenance and repair logs;
- evaluating wastewater treatment operations and recommending changes in operating procedures to management;
- interpreting and applying technical guidance from plans, schematics and operating/maintenance manuals and instructions;
- assigning, monitoring and evaluating the work of others;

- conducting or coordinating conduct of employee safety and technical training;
- communicating effectively, both orally and in writing;
- preparing reports.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

EITHER:

(1) A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in civil engineering, biological science, chemistry, environmental science or hydrology and one year of experience in the operation of a secondary wastewater treatment facility.

OR:

(2) An Associate's degree or Advanced Certificate for Direct Employment from an accredited community college or technical school in wastewater technology, water technology, or environmental technology and six months of experience in the operation of a secondary wastewater treatment system or facility.

OR:

(3) Two years of experience with Pima County as a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator-Senior.

OR:

(4) Holding a current Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Grade 3 (or higher) Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator certification and two years of experience in wastewater treatment plant operations or maintenance.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Licenses and Certificates: All positions require a valid ADEQ Grade 3 Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certificate and a valid Arizona Class D Driver's License at time of appointment. Some positions, within this classification, may require a valid Arizona Commercial Drivers License (CDL) with appropriate endorsements, as identified by the appointing authority. Failure to maintain the required license/certification shall be grounds for termination.

Special Notice Items: Some positions may carry the risk of exposure to infectious diseases, asbestos or wastewater and sewage products, therefore special medical screening prior to or during employment may be necessary to assure employee health and safety.

Physical/Sensory Requirements: All positions require the ability to lift up to seventy-five pounds for brief periods. Some positions require the ability to enter and work in confined spaces, which may require the proper wearing of individual safety and protective equipment.

This classification specification is intended to indicate the basic nature of positions allocated to the classification and examples of typical duties that may be assigned. It does not imply that all positions within the classification perform all of the duties listed, nor does it necessarily list all possible duties that may be assigned.