WASTEWATER OPERATOR I

MAJOR FUNCTION

This is manual and mechanical operation of a water reclamation treatment facility. Although the operator has some maintenance responsibilities, those responsibilities are secondary to the theoretical operational control of the plant. Duties are performed on an assigned shift under the guidance of a supervisor or other operator holding a higher license. Work is reviewed through inspection and by observing the effectiveness of plant operations through the review of shift reports and chemical laboratory tests. The employee is expected to understand the fundamentals and learn the more advanced wastewater treatment plant operations which helps to prepare the incumbent for certification as a Wastewater Plant Operator "B."

ESSENTIAL AND OTHER IMPORTANT JOB DUTIES

Essential Duties

Performs assigned work under the guidance of a Certified Wastewater Operator (level B, or higher) that includes: Inspects and evaluates treatment processes and equipment that control the operation and effectiveness of an Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) Wastewater treatment facility in order to optimize performance, maintain regulatory compliance, and minimize local and/or plant wide adverse impacts while taking into consideration cost, equipment capabilities, and environmental impacts. Adjusts aeration system, valves, solids handling system and other equipment so as to maintain the highest degree of treatment. Utilizes available tools to perform operational duties and document work activities including but not limited to SCADA systems, operational database, and computerized maintenance management system (CMMS). Records and enters operational data in database, records work details in maintenance database, completes work requests and retrieves work order details. Reads and interprets a variety of charts and meters, keeping log sheets, maintains simple records of shift operations and preparing reports. Proficient monitors flow rates, and capably conducts water quality analysis of dissolved oxygen, chlorine residual, pH, turbidity, temperature, mixed liquors suspended solids (MLSS), total Nitrogen and other plant conditions. Reliably isolates, tags out and takes appropriate actions required to make ready systems and equipment to support/perform maintenance activities

Other Important Duties

Operates, services, adjusts and conducts routine preventative maintenance to SCADA controlled equipment and related treatment equipment. Adjusts disinfection equipment, records operational and maintenance details, collects process and compliance samples for analysis following appropriate QA procedures, performs routine process sample analysis. Will be required to work varying shifts, hours and locations in order to become trained in all aspects of plant operations. Ensures cleanliness and safety of facilities by maintaining the work area clean and organized. Attends training courses, when available, during off-duty hours.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge, Abilities and Skills

Knowledge of the implications of improper sewage treatment for community health and well-being. Knowledge of the occupational hazards involved in sewage treatment and disposal. Knowledge of the rules, regulations and public laws pertaining to sewage treatment plant operations. Knowledge of chemistry and mathematics as they apply to sewage. Knowledgeable of the methods and practices of modern sewage treatment; standards and normal operating procedures applicable to treatment; the functions and mechanics of pumps and other plant mechanical equipment. Must be in good physical condition and able to endure intermittent periods of sitting, standing and walking when collecting samples, operating equipment and changing chemical system. Ability to climb stairs; turn large valves, lift objects weighing over 50 lbs. and use tools requiring a high degree of dexterity. Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions. Ability to learn the recognition of the need to adjust treatment procedures to meet requirements of volumes to be treated. Ability to learn about

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materials, equipment and procedures for activated sludge processes, anaerobic digestion, nitrification/de-nitrification and chlorination. Ability to learn how to troubleshoot process problems in many different areas of wastewater treatment. Ability to learn SCADA systems to monitor and control plant processes. Ability to understand the lay-out and flow patterns of sewage treatment plants.

Minimum Training and Experience

Possession of a high school diploma or an equivalent recognized certificate and one year of experience in the operation and maintenance of a wastewater plant. Studies should have included courses in basic mathematics and chemistry.

Necessary Special Requirements

Applicant must be at least eighteen years of age.

Must possess and maintain a Florida Department of Environmental Protection Class C Wastewater Plant Operator's Certificate.

Must possess and maintain a valid class E State driver's license as a condition for continued employment.

Revised: 09-30-83 11-07-83 12-30-87 02-15-90 01-17-92 09-09-93 04-09-03 10-07-03 04-08-04 04-15-17