**# 2063 Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I**

**Primary Reason Why Classification Exists**

To perform technical and skilled manual work in the operation and maintenance of the City’s wastewater treatment plant.

**Distinguishing Features of the Class**

An employee in this class is responsible for operating and maintaining the City’s wastewater treatment plant. Emphasis of the work is on making hourly rounds of the plant to inspect operations, entering readings into operating records, taking samples from pre-determined locations throughout the treatment plant and performing required tests, documenting and/or repairing malfunctions, troubleshooting mechanical problems, performing preventive maintenance on plant equipment and performing other related plant work, as required. Work is performed under general supervision and is evaluated on the basis of efficiency and cleanliness of plant operations, accuracy in tests performed and documentation, quality of treated wastewater and observation of work in progress.

**Illustrative Examples of Work**

* Makes regular tours of plant and inspects for the proper operation of bar screens, grit collector, motors, generators, pumps, aerators, settling tanks, aeration basins, filters, clarifiers, sludge dewatering equipment and other equipment and records readings from plant process control instrumentation.
* Regulates and adjusts motors, pumps, blowers, valves and other apparatus based on changing operating conditions and adverse weather.
* Collects samples from pre-determined locations within the treatment process, including effluent samples for laboratory analysis and performs routine tests on samples.
* Applies polymer to sludge dewatering to process; observes effect on dewatering operations and makes adjustments, as required.
* Skims floatables from settling tanks, cleans bar screens, disposes of sand, trash and other waste; washes basins, cleans clarifiers and washes down sludge dewatering equipment, as required.
* Maintains the cleanliness and appearance of the physical plant building and grounds.
* Performs minor and emergency repairs to equipment and assists other plant personnel on larger repair efforts and replacements.
* Answers phones and gives information to visitors or vendors.
* Performs preventive maintenance duties as assigned.
* Performs related tasks as required.

**Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities**

* Knowledge of the operating characteristics and maintenance requirements of a wastewater treatment plant.
* Knowledge of common laboratory tests and wastewater sampling techniques.
* Knowledge of proper wastewater treatment process controls methods to ensure compliance with federal and state treatment regulations.
* Knowledge of state and federal regulations affecting wastewater treatment operations.
* Knowledge of occupational and safety hazards associated with wastewater plant operations, knowledge of rules and regulations that affect employee safety.
* Knowledge of effective communication techniques when speaking with co-workers, vendors and the public.
* Ability to make operational decisions in the absence of a supervisor.
* Ability to detect and resolve routine operational problems with mechanical equipment.
* Ability to conduct routine wastewater tests, read meters, charts and record results.
* Ability to understand and follow moderately complex oral and written instructions.

**Physical Requirements**

This is heavy work requiring the exertion of 100 pounds of force occasionally, up to 50 pounds of force frequently, and up to 20 pounds of force constantly to move objects. Work requires climbing, balancing, stooping, crouching, reaching, walking, pushing, pulling, lifting, grasping, and repetitive motions. Verbal communication is required to express or exchange ideas. Hearing is required to perceive information at normal spoken word levels. Visual acuity is required for visual inspection involving small defects and/or small parts, use of measuring or testing devices, assembly of equipment, operating plant equipment, determining accuracy and thoroughness of work performed, and observing surroundings and activities. Employee must be able to perform physically demanding work such as skimming floatables from settling tanks, unstopping bar screens, disposal of sand, trash and other waste, and washing and cleaning basins and clarifiers.

**Working Conditions**

Work is subject to inside and outside environmental conditions including extreme heat and extreme cold. Employee is subject to noise, vibration, and hazards, including a variety of physical conditions, such as proximity to moving mechanical parts, electrical current, exposure to chemicals, and atmospheric conditions. Employee is exposed to oils and greases, sewage flows and sludge, bacteria, and potentially bloodborne pathogens. Employee is required to wear a respirator when necessary, but only if trained in the proper use of said respirator and employee complies with all other requirements associated with wearing a respirator. Employee may frequently work in close quarters, crawl space, shafts, manholes, small enclosed rooms and other areas which could cause claustrophobia.

**Education and Experience**

Minimum education qualification for all levels is graduation from high school or equivalency. Some high school or college coursework in environmental science, physics, chemistry, hydrology, water and wastewater engineering, or related study is preferred; an Associate’s degree in the physical or biological sciences may be required at higher levels of certification:

* **Wastewater Plant Operator I:** 1-year or less experience in a wastewater treatment facility. Must be certified at the NC wastewater operator grade I level or ability to obtain within one year of employment.

**Special Requirements**

* Valid North Carolina driver license
* NC Grade I Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certification required within one year of employment.
* NC Grade I Collections Certification a plus.

**FLSA Status**: Nonexempt

**Disclaimer**

This classification specification has been designed to indicate the general nature and level of work performed by employees within this classification. It is not designed to contain or be interpreted as a comprehensive inventory of all duties, responsibilities, and qualifications required of employees to perform the job. The City of Morganton reserves the right to assign or otherwise modify the duties assigned to this classification.

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