

Jurisdiction: City of Ithaca
Jurisdictional Class: Competitive
Adopted: 03/30/64
Revised: 11/12/91, 05/19/97, 06/03/20, 09/07/22

CHIEF WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR
TYPE I A PLANT

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is the chief administrative, supervisory and technical position of the Water Treatment Plant. The incumbent is responsible for the complete and actual safe and efficient operation and maintenance of a Type I A Water Treatment Plant containing facilities for filtration with pretreatment and the discharge of back wash and sedimentation basin waste. The Chief Operator also has the technical and administrative responsibility for the management of the City watershed area including, but not necessarily limited to, water quality control issues. In this capacity, the incumbent will take into account the needs of private land owners, state and federal regulations, local planning boards and regulatory agencies on all water quality, land use planning, storm water runoff, wetland control and other water resources management issues affecting the watershed area. General supervision is received from the Assistant Superintendent of Public Works with considerable leeway for the exercise of independent judgment in planning, organizing and directing the work methods and in dealing with emergency conditions. Direct supervision is exercised over operators, trainees, laboratory personnel, truck drivers and maintenance workers. The Chief Water Treatment Plant Operator must possess the required certificate for a Type I A plant which he or she supervises in accordance with the provisions of the Sanitary Code for "Operator" in Section 5-4.2. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Supervises and directs the operation and maintenance of the water treatment plant, back wash sediment facilities, and pumping stations to assure the most efficient and economical use of equipment, supplies and personnel;

Consults with private land owners and public agencies on water quality management issues;

Makes daily inspection of facilities and equipment;

Makes or supervises necessary tests for control of plant operation;

Issues instructions for the regulation of chlorinators and chemical feeders;

Schedules and supervises the cleaning of basins and washing of filters;

Supervises and instructs operators, trainees and other subordinate employees;

Interviews job applicants, handles first step grievances, reviews employee performance;

Conducts periodic examinations of plant equipment and directs necessary repairs and maintenance;

Conducts special studies for improvement of water quality and plant operations;

Develops appropriate treatment regimens;

Maintains inventory of supplies, chemicals and equipment;

Requisitions materials;

Maintains records and prepares periodic reports on the operation of the plant and the discharge of back wash treatment facilities;

Prepares annual operating budget estimates;

May provide assistance to persons with disabilities in reaching less accessible areas of City facilities.

Chief Water Treatment Plant Operator - Type I-A Plant

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FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of the practices used and equipment required in the operation and maintenance of a Type I A Water Treatment Plant containing facilities for filtration with pretreatment and the discharge of back wash and sedimentation basin waste; good knowledge of the operation of a modern water treatment plant; good knowledge of the principles and practices of supervision; good knowledge of the principles and applications of physics, chemistry and bacteriology as they relate to water quality and purification; excellent oral and written communication skills; ability to supervise the operation and repair of pumps, valves and related mechanical and electrical equipment; ability to make routine laboratory and field tests for control of plant operations; ability to successfully work with and serve a diverse local community; mechanical aptitude, alertness and dependability; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A. Possession of a New York State Professional Engineer's License or possession of a Bachelor's Degree in engineering, natural science or a closely related field and two years of satisfactory experience in the actual operation of a water treatment plant with facilities for filtration with pretreatment or chemical softening, or an similar process; and completion of the appropriate level water treatment plant operator courses in accordance with the provisions of the Sanitary Code for "Operator" in Section 5-4.2; or
- B. Possession of an Associate's Degree in applied science with major emphasis in Public Health or Environmental Health, including a course in water operations and four years of satisfactory experience in the actual operation of a water treatment plant with facilities for filtration with pretreatment, or chemical softening, or any similar process; and completion of the appropriate level water treatment plant operator courses in accordance with the provisions of the Sanitary Code for "Operator" in Section 5-4.2; or
- C. Possession of an Associate's Degree in applied science and six years of satisfactory experience in the actual operation of a water treatment plant with facilities for filtration with pretreatment, or chemical softening, or any similar process and completion of the appropriate level water treatment plant operator courses in accordance with the provisions of the Sanitary Code for "Operator" in Section 5-4.2; or
- D. Graduation from high school or possession of a New York State Equivalency Diploma and ten years of satisfactory experience in the actual operation of a water treatment plant with facilities for filtration with pretreatment, or a chemical softening, or any similar process and completion of the provisions of the Sanitary Code for "Operator" in Section 5-4.2.

Note: College degrees must have been awarded by a college or university accredited by a regional, national, or specialized agency recognized as an accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education and/or U.S. Secretary of Education. If an applicant's degree was awarded by an educational institution outside the United States and its territories, the applicant must provide independent verification of equivalency. A list of acceptable companies who provide this service can be found at <https://www.cs.ny.gov/jobseeker/degrees.cfm>. Applicants are responsible for payment of the required evaluation fee.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Possession of a current Grade IA Water Treatment Plant Operator certificate issued by the New York State Department of Health pursuant to Part 5, Subpart 5-4.2 of the New York State Sanitary Code at the time of appointment and maintenance of said certification for the duration of employment.