

Jurisdiction: City of Ithaca
Jurisdictional Class: Competitive
Adopted: 10/12/99
Revised: 04/06/05, 02/28/18, 01/15/20, 09/07/22

SENIOR WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The work involves responsibility for supervising and participating in the operation and maintenance of a Type IA Water Treatment Plant containing facilities for filtration with pretreatment or a chemical softening process, and including ancillary facilities such as an intake screen cleaning system, process waste facilities with thickeners and presses, booster chlorination systems, and water pumping stations. The incumbent plans and oversees the details of assigned work projects and supervises plant operators, operator trainees, and work site activities on an assigned shift. A Senior Water Treatment Plant Operator may be assigned responsibility for one or more specialized areas of plant operations, such as maintenance, safety programs, regulatory areas, watershed issues, or field and project sampling and analyses. The incumbent also performs the duties of a Water Treatment Plant Operator. The work is performed under the general supervision of the Chief Water Treatment Plant Operator and/or Assistant Chief Water Treatment Plant Operator with considerable leeway allowed for the exercise of independent judgment in planning and carrying out the details of the work. Direct supervision may be exercised over the work of operators, trainees, laboratory staff and other plant personnel. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

- Supervises and participates in the operation and maintenance of the water treatment plant, pumping stations, intake facilities and waste handling facilities;
- Supervises and participates in the operation, maintenance and repair of pumps, valves, motors, and related plant equipment and machinery;
- Supervises and participates in the reading of meters and gauges, and the recording of data obtained from the readings;
- Supervises and participates in the backwashing of filters and lines with water and compressed air, and the washing of filter beds and settling basins;
- Supervises and participates in the mixing of chemicals, the filling of water treatment tanks, and the monitoring, regulation and adjustment of chemical feed equipment;
- Plans, schedules, directs staff and performs work related to assigned specialized areas of plant operations or maintenance;
- Oversees work performed by plant operators, trainees, laboratory personnel and other subordinate employees;
- Maintains an inventory of and requisitions supplies, chemicals and equipment as required;
- Trains plant operators;
- Conducts plant tours;
- Compiles data relative to the plant's operation and creates operating and maintenance reports;
- Oversees the maintenance and repair of machinery.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES, PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good knowledge of the principles and practices involved in operating and maintaining a water treatment plant, water pumping stations, and related waste handling processes; good knowledge of the tools, materials, equipment, terminology and chemicals involved in operating and maintaining a water treatment plant and its ancillary facilities; good knowledge of laboratory principles and practices, equipment, materials and chemicals as they relate to water treatment testing; good knowledge of federal, state and local laws and regulations applicable to a water treatment plant, including waste process discharge; working knowledge of the principles, practices and equipment involved in operating and maintaining a water transmission and distribution system; working knowledge of the physical sciences as they relate to water purification; working knowledge of modern office terminology, procedures, equipment, software programs, and business English; ability to analyze and organize data and prepare records and reports;

Full Performance Knowledges, Skills, Abilities, Personal Characteristics - continued:

ability to understand and interpret complex oral instructions and/or written directions; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with others; ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing; ability to participate in assigned projects and lay-out work for others; ability to successfully work with and serve a diverse local community; mechanical aptitude; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the job.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A. Possession of a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science, Engineering, Natural Resource Management or a closely related field with similar course curriculum, and two (2) years of full-time paid experience, or its part-time paid equivalent, in the operation of a Type IA water treatment plant; or
- B. Possession of an Associate's Degree in an applied science, with at least one semester course in water treatment plant operations, and four (4) years of full-time paid experience, or its part-time paid equivalent, in the operation of a Type IA water treatment plant; or
- C. Possession of an Associate's Degree in an applied science, and six (6) years of full-time paid experience, or its part-time paid equivalent, in the operation of a Type IA water treatment plant; or
- D. Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and ten (10) years of full-time paid experience, or its part-time paid equivalent, in the operation of a Type IA water treatment plant.

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 REQUIREMENTS:

- 1. Candidates must possess a current Grade IIA 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 must obtain a 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 within two (2) years of appointment. Said licenses must be maintained for the duration of employment.
- 2. Possession of a valid New York State Class D driver license or a valid driver license equivalent to a New York State Class D driver license at the time of appointment and maintenance of said license for the duration of employment.