



## WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR 1

**Department:** Planning and Public Works  
**Job Class #:** 955400  
**Pay Range:** Maintenance/Trades 21

**FLSA:** Non-Exempt  
**Represented:** No

Classification descriptions are intended to present a descriptive list of the range of duties performed by employees in this class and are not intended to reflect all duties performed within the job.

**GENERAL FUNCTION:** This is technical, skilled work in the operation and maintenance of the Pierce County Wastewater Treatment Plant. An employee in this class is responsible for assisting in and being involved with a wide variety of treatment operations to comply with state and federal standards.

**SERIES CONCEPT:** This is the entry-level class in the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator series. The position receives hands-on instruction from higher class operators.

### **ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:**

- Conduct verbal debriefing with outgoing shift personnel and reviews plant operations logs for process abnormalities or maintenance needs.
- Maintain process control and shift logs with data of plant operations.
- Collect samples and perform routine lab tests to establish process parameters and make necessary changes.
- Perform plant walk-throughs to monitor equipment operation. Record gauge levels and report abnormalities to the lead operator.
- Adjust valves and gates to direct effluent flow to different treatment processes.
- Check dissolved oxygen levels in aeration basins and adjusts blowers as required.
- Wash aeration tanks, clarifiers and contact chambers as required.
- Operate sludge processing equipment such as pumps, comminutors, clarifiers, boilers, digesters, blowers, aerators, chlorinators and control panels.
- Perform preventative and corrective maintenance as assigned.
- Maintain regular, predictable and punctual attendance during regularly scheduled work hours at assigned worksite.
- Meet travel requirements of the position.
- Perform the physical requirements of the position; work within the established working conditions of the position.
- Work a flexible schedule, which may include evenings, weekends, holidays and overtime.

### **OTHER JOB FUNCTIONS:**

- Perform other job functions as assigned.

**SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED:** Work requires independent action, initiative and judgment by the employee. An employee in this class works under the general supervision and guidance of a higher level Operator 3 or Chief Operator who observes work through on-site walk-throughs and conferences to evaluate results obtained.

**WORK ENVIRONMENT:** Incumbents may perform assigned work in a variety of inside and outside climates and conditions, with exposure to weather. Work may include potentially hazardous conditions, such as slippery floors, working from heights or depths of up to 30 feet, in confined spaces, or on difficult terrain, and may include exposure to chemicals, gases and fumes.

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## **Classification Description – Pierce County**

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**PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:** The physical demands described herein are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions. Physical activities required are hand and finger dexterity necessary to operate equipment used in the position, talking, seeing and hearing. Walking, sitting, climbing and descending ladders, bending/stooping, working in and entering tight, confined space with entrance diameter of twenty-four (24") inches, pushing/pulling and unassisted lifting associated with the job duties is required.

### **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES**

#### **Knowledge of:**

- Fundamental operation of mechanical and electrical equipment such as pumps, blowers and controls used in wastewater treatment plants.
- Treatment plant hazards such as gases, fumes and moving heavy machinery and safety precautions applicable to the work.

#### **Ability to:**

- Read meters and charts and maintain accurate logs and records.
- Work a flexible schedule, which may include evenings, weekends, holidays and overtime.
- Understand and follow written and verbal instructions.
- Work effectively and productively with others.
- Effectively coordinate, perform and complete multiple duties and assignments concurrently and in a timely manner.
- Meet the travel requirements of the position, if any.
- Physically perform the essential job functions of the classification.

### **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY:**

High school graduation and a minimum of one (1) year experience working in a wastewater treatment plant is required.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS AND/OR QUALIFICATIONS:** Must possess a valid Washington State Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator in Training Certificate with the ability to obtain Group I certification within 6 months of employment. Satisfactory physical condition, as evidenced by a County-approved physical examination, may be required prior to appointment to the position. A valid Washington State driver's license is required.

**NOTE:** An employee who is certified as a Washington State Group 2 Operator may be promoted to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator 2 classification after successful completion of a six-month probationary period and after demonstrating the knowledge, skills and abilities of the higher class.