**Class Summary**

The responsibilities of this classification include assisting in a wide variety of entry-level (trainee) laboring and maintenance tasks in the maintenance, construction, and repair of wastewater treatment primary, secondary, reuse, and conveyance facilities while in training. Incumbents participate in training needed to advance to higher-level Wastewater Treatment Operator classifications.

**Distinguishing Characteristics**

This is the first (trainee) level within a five-level classification series. The Wastewater Treatment Operator in Training is distinguished from the Wastewater Treatment Operator in that the Wastewater Treatment Operator is primarily responsible for the operation, monitoring, troubleshooting, and maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities, odor control, and collection/conveyance systems and processes. Note: Wastewater Treatment Operators are required to have a Group I or higher Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator certificate.

**Examples of Duties**

1. Train and learn how to operate, monitor, and maintain biological, chemical, mechanical, electrical, pneumatic, and hydraulic equipment at wastewater treatment facilities.
2. Train and learn how to inspect, clean, and perform preventive maintenance on wastewater treatment facilities and safety equipment.
3. Assist other staff in wastewater operations, maintenance, and process control; perform laboratory sampling and provide emergency support at assigned facility.
4. Use basic hand and power tools or equipment and follow established safety policies and procedures associated with equipment operation.
5. Participate in continuing education, safety, and training programs associated with wastewater treatment operations.
6. Train and learn how to operate specialized equipment such as cranes, forklifts, vacuum trucks, and portable pumps at wastewater treatment facilities.
7. Perform maintenance duties such as cleaning, pressure washing, servicing equipment, mowing lawns, and performing housekeeping tasks as assigned.
8. Maintain daily logs, submit work requests, and complete work assignments while following established business and team standards.
9. Perform other duties as assigned.

**Knowledge/Skills**

Knowledge of basic mathematics, algebra principles, and techniques

Knowledge of the application of mechanical and electrical techniques and principles

Knowledge of industrial safety procedures on how to work safely in hazardous environments, handling of hazardous materials, and Safety Data Sheet (SDS)

Skill in operating basic hand and power tools

Skill in verbal and written communication

Ability to work during adverse and inclement weather conditions

Ability to lift and carry equipment weighing up to 50 pounds

Ability to work in confined spaces, climb in and out of tanks using ladders, and work around noxious odors, heat, and high noise levels

Ability to work shifts, weekends, holidays, and overtime as needed

Ability to effectively engage in and sustain relationships with people from diverse cultures and socio-economic backgrounds

Ability to work independently and as a team member

Demonstrated proficiency with business applications, such as Microsoft Office suite

**Education and Experience Requirements**

Any combination of education and experience that clearly demonstrates the ability to perform the job duties of the position

**Licensing, Certification and Other Requirements**

Department of Ecology, State of Washington Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator-In-Training (OIT) certificate

Must meet the requirements for advancement to Wastewater Treatment Operator within two years of employment

Washington State Driver’s License or ability to obtain within 30 days

Some licenses, certifications and other requirements determined to be necessary to meet the business needs of the employing unit may be required

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| **FLSA Designation** | Non-Exempt |
| **Service Status** | Career Service |
| **EEO Code** | 7 |
| **Levels within same series** | Wastewater Treatment Operator In-Training, Wastewater Treatment Operator, Wastewater Treatment Operator-Senior, Wastewater Treatment Operator-Senior In Charge, Wastewater Treatment Supervisor |
| **Class History** | 09/2006 – Updated  07/2007 – Updated font and format  10/2008 – Updated  03/2010 – Updated  03/2017 – Updated content  03/2025 – Updated content |