**Class Summary**

The responsibilities of this classification include operating, monitoring, troubleshooting, and maintaining equipment, systems, and processes in wastewater facilities.

**Distinguishing Characteristics**

This is the second level within a five-level classification series. The Wastewater Treatment Operator classification is distinguished from the Wastewater Treatment Operator-Senior in that incumbents within the Wastewater Treatment Operator-Senior are required to have a Group III Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator certification and are primarily responsible for serving in a lead capacity.

**Examples of Duties**

*In addition to the duties of the Wastewater Treatment Operator in Training classification, the Wastewater Treatment Operator will:*

1. Operate, monitor, troubleshoot, and maintain systems and processes in wastewater and stormwater facilities.
2. Conduct sampling and test analysis of wastewater. Determine, recommend, and implement changes to systems and processes to meet permits and regulations and optimize wastewater facilities' performance.
3. Act as a trainer in the OIT program, provide on-the-job training to new employees and/or employees new to a particular process and train others on site-specific areas through on-the-job training.
4. Start up and shut down equipment and processes for maintenance and contractors.
5. Maintain wastewater facilities, including buildings, equipment, and grounds; clean and service equipment; mow lawns; and perform housekeeping tasks.
6. Perform wastewater systems and associated equipment operating checks.
7. Communicate with the public, construction personnel, consultants, and engineers to resolve complaints, provide construction assistance, give tours, and carry out related duties.
8. Exchange information on wastewater operations, maintenance, and processes with County staff and others involved in process control, maintenance, facilities services, off-site facilities services, and other areas.
9. Respond to unusual occurrences, assist in emergency responses, and may serve as on-scene incident commander.
10. Use and work with chemicals associated with wastewater treatment facilities.
11. Monitor and control wastewater flow and plant processes to ensure efficient and safe operation and compliance with permit requirements; perform sight and sound inspections of equipment; take readings of meters and gauges; collect wastewater and sludge samples to perform lab tests; adjust processes within authorized parameters.
12. Remove screenings and grit; clean primary, secondary, and other wastewater treatment equipment and facilities in coordination with other business teams.
13. Handle materials, supplies, and equipment; assist in storing and transferring chemicals.
14. Operate various equipment such as forklifts, lifts, cranes, and vacuum trucks.
15. Operate, monitor, and control wastewater equipment using complex computer systems.
16. Record technical data and daily activities on logs.
17. Read, interpret, and utilize plant diagrams, manufacturer's specifications, operations manuals, piping schematics, etc.
18. Write work order requests for equipment maintenance.
19. Perform all essential duties in compliance with safety guidelines, policies, and regulations.
20. Use communications equipment such as radios, phones, intercoms, and alarm systems.
21. Develop and review Process Safety Management (PSM), Preventative Maintenance (PM), and Hazardous Energy Control Procedures (HECP) in conjunction with Lock-out-tage-out procedures.
22. Perform other related duties as assigned.

**Knowledge/Skills**

Knowledge of mechanical and electrical theory, cross connections, and pumps

Knowledge of wastewater terminology and process control

Knowledge of industrial safety procedures and practices

Skill in verbal and written communication

Skill in operating basic hand and power tools and specialized equipment

Ability to work rotating shifts, including nights, weekends, and holidays, and demonstrate predictable, reliable, and timely attendance

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 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 Group I Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator certification or out-of-state equivalent, which must be converted to a Washington certification within one year of employment

Washington State Driver’s License

CPR and First Aid certification

Additional 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** | 11/1996 – Created02/2003 – Updated 04/2008 – Updated distinguishing characteristics08/2008 – Updated content04/2011 – Updated minor edits03/2017 – Updated content03/2025 – Updated content |