

Careers in the Water Industry



Plant Operator

Description: Inspects, operates, maintains, and calibrates equipment in a water or wastewater treatment plant. Performs routine lab analysis and maintains on-going results of analysis and lab equipment calibration.

Qualifications: High school diploma or GED certificate; Valid current driver's license; Class "C" Water or Wastewater Certification

Wage/Salary Range: \$27,000-\$31,000 annually [Starting]

Opportunities for Advancement: Shift Leader ~ \$40,000 Supervisor ~ \$57,000 Superintendent ~ \$80,000



Lab Technician → Chemist

Description: Performs more difficult technical laboratory work by analyzing water, wastewater, industrial waste, and soil samples.

Qualifications: Two years college coursework in chemistry or closely related field with an additional one to three years of laboratory experience (Technician); Bachelor degree in chemistry, biology, microbiology, or related field plus experience (Chemist); Class "D" Water Cert

Wage/Salary Range: Tech \$30,000 - \$32,000 annually [Starting] Chemist \$35,000 - \$36,000 annually [Starting]

Opportunities for Advancement: Chemist ~ \$36,000 Laboratory Coordinator ~ \$55,000



Environmental Compliance Technician → Specialist

Description: Prepares, collects, and performs field analysis of water, wastewater, groundwater, stormwater, soil, and plant depending on the department. Assists environmental compliance specialist in the evaluation and enforcement of applicable laws, permits, and regulations.

Qualifications: Two years college coursework in science with field sampling experience (Technician); Bachelor degree in environmental science or biology plus experience (Specialist)

Wage/Salary Range: Tech \$30,000 - \$32,000 annually [Starting] Specialist \$40,000 - \$42,000 annually [Starting]

Opportunities for Advancement: Specialist I ~ \$40,000 Specialist II ~ \$45,000 Manager ~ \$60,000



Mechanic Assistant → Mechanic

Description: Inspects, repairs, and maintains the equipment and facilities associated with water or wastewater such as large pumps, valves, and compressors.

Qualifications: High school diploma with one year of experience in maintenance and/or repair (Assistant); High school diploma with 3-5 years experience operating large equipment (Mechanic) Valid current driver's license; Mechanic requires multiple certifications depending on department

Wage/Salary Range: Assistant \$27,000 - \$29,000 annually [Starting] Mechanic \$31,000 - \$33,000 annually [Starting]

Opportunities for Advancement: Mechanic ~ \$31,000 Supervisor ~ \$54,000



SCADA Operator/Dispatcher

Description: Monitors and operates electric distribution substation control system. Dispatches emergency and routine service calls.

Qualifications: High school diploma with an additional year of responsible work experience

Wage/Salary Range: \$38,000-\$40,000 annually [Starting]

Opportunities for Advancement: System Specialist ~ \$52,000