



## WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

**Department:** Public Works and Utilities  
**Job Class #:** 954300  
**Pay Range:** 0C21

**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 professional skilled technical work in an Environmental Laboratory involving distinctive instrumentation and analyses conducting analysis of environmental samples following appropriate methodology, and protocols. Employees exercise considerable independent judgment as to procedures to be used, interpretation of regulations, and in the evaluation of analytical results.

**SERIES CONCEPT:** This technical position is considered to be the entry level position into the laboratory job series. The series consists of the Lab Supervisor, Lab Analyst, and Lab Technician.

### **ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:**

- Perform quantitative and qualitative laboratory analysis of water, wastewater, biosolids and sediments for chemical and microbiological contaminants according to protocols such as Standard Methods, EPA 600, SW-846, and ASTM, etc.
- Perform strict quality control (QA/QC) procedures including calibration of instruments, analyzing standards, keeping logs, and performing statistical analysis of data.
- Operate and perform routine maintenance on laboratory instruments.
- Perform interpretation and evaluation of analytical data.
- Under supervision, may modify, expand, and implement new analytical methods as necessary to adapt to different situations or improve efficiencies.
- Train, oversee and provide technical assistance to less-experienced employees.
- Record, calculate, and compile data utilizing computerized software including spreadsheet and word processing applications.
- Maintain laboratory supplies, evaluate needs, and alternatives.
- Perform routine laboratory duties such as prepare chemical reagents, media, and standard solutions.
- Work with a variety of hazardous materials including chemicals, solvents, and biohazards using appropriate safety precautions.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with County officials, employees and the general public.
- 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.
- lift 50 lbs. unassisted as required by with the job duties

### **OTHER JOB FUNCTIONS:**

- Perform other job functions as assigned.

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**SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED:** Work is performed under general supervision of the Laboratory Supervisor or Laboratory Analyst. The Wastewater Treatment Plant Laboratory Technician works with significant independent action and judgment in the performance of duties. The position is expected to train, oversee and provide technical assistance to others on an occasional basis; however, full supervisory responsibility is not expected of the classification.

**WORK ENVIRONMENT:** The work environment characteristics described herein are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of the position. Work is performed in a laboratory environment with exposure to hazardous materials, chemicals, fumes, and gases. May be required to handle or work with toxic and /or hazardous substances and appropriate safety precautions must be taken. Field work may include water analysis monitoring activities around bodies of water.

**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 finger dexterity necessary to operate equipment used in the position, talking, seeing and hearing. Walking, sitting, bending/stooping, pushing/pulling, standing for extended periods of time, and unassisted lifting of 50 lbs. associated with the job duties is required. Field work may involve driving to and from worksites and walking on uneven or rough terrain and around bodies of water.

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

#### **Knowledge of:**

- Principles of inorganic, organic, analytical, and instrumental chemistry, mathematics, and statistics.
- Quantitative and qualitative analytical chemistry.
- Environmental laboratory terminology, tests, methods, and standard analytical procedures.
- Laboratory hazards, safety regulations and procedures, and emergency first aid.
- Chemical and hazardous materials; their proper use, handling, storage, and disposal; and applicable regulations.
- Municipal biological wastewater treatment theory and operations.
- Monitoring, and sampling procedures and techniques.

#### **Skill in:**

- The use of systems software, spreadsheet software and computers at the proficient level.

#### **Ability to:**

- Follow laboratory instructions and procedures and evaluate and resolve problems with procedures or equipment with minimal supervision.
- Maintain records; produce documents; and interpret results.
- Handle pressure and interruptions due to changing priorities and workloads.
- Recommend, document, and interpret laboratory analyses pertaining to industrial wastewater samples.
- Review technical literature and regulations to provide advice and information to the Section.
- Work independently with minimal supervision and accomplish the goals of the Section.
- Understand and follow written and verbal instructions.
- Work effectively and productively with others.
- Communicate effectively verbally and in writing to audiences of various social, cultural, ethnic, educational and economic backgrounds.

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#### **KNOWLEDGE, SKILL AND ABILITY: (continued)**

##### **Ability to: (continued)**

- 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.
- Maintain regular, predictable and punctual attendance during regularly scheduled work hours at assigned worksite.
- Work a flexible schedule, which may include evenings, weekends, holidays and overtime.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY:** A Bachelors Degree in a natural or physical science discipline with at least 18 quarter-hours (12 semester hours) of laboratory theory and laboratory course work in Chemistry, and one or more years of related experience involving chemical analysis of environmental samples is preferred. Additional related experience may substitute for up to two years of the required education provided that the required Chemistry course work has been completed. Additional scientific education at a graduate level may substitute for the required experience on a year for year basis.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS AND/OR QUALIFICATIONS** A valid Washington State driver's license, or the ability to obtain one, is required as travel is required of the position. Possession of a current State of Washington Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I Certificate is desirable. Satisfactory physical condition, as evidenced by a County-approved physical examination, may be required prior to appointment.