

As a Wastewater Collection Operator you would perform these types of duties:

- Clean and inspect sanitary sewers and manholes
- Construct, repair and maintain manholes, sewer pipes and catch basins
- Operate power sewer cleaning equipment and other tools and equipment including mechanical sewer rodders, sewer bucket machines, high velocity pipe cleaning/vacuum machines, compressors, electric generators, submersible and high-capacity pumps, smoke generators, and closed-circuit television inspection equipment
- Maintain specialized sewer maintenance vehicles, tools and equipment
- Perform video inspection of underground sewer mains using closed circuit television inspection equipment
- Operate and maintain sanitary sewer pump stations

Supervise other employees, acting as the responsible person in charge of field crews

Wastewater collection operators are required to demonstrate competence through experience, written examination, and maintaining ongoing training credits for collection certifications.

Colorado offers four levels of certification ranging from a Class 1 certificate at the entry level to a Class 4 certificate at the most advanced level. The size of Pueblo's system requires that a Class 4 operator be in charge. OCPO (the Operator Certification Program Office) administers Colorado's certification program. OCPO can be contacted by telephone, fax, or Internet:

2170 S. Parker Road #290  
 Denver, CO 80231  
 Phone #: 303.394.8994  
 Fax #: 303.394.3450  
 Website: [www.ocpoweb.com](http://www.ocpoweb.com)

#### EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATOR certification

Certification Level	Minimum Experience
Class 1 (entry level)	1 month <sup>A</sup>
Class 2	2 years
Class 3	3 years
Class 4	4 years

<sup>A</sup> Special rules for satisfying the minimum experience requirements of this regulation: Applicants for certification as Class 1 Operators may take the Class 1 examination before accruing the necessary experience for the certificate. The Class 1 certificate will then only be issued upon a showing of satisfactory experience, as well as passage of a validated written exam. The required experience may be

accrued under the supervision of a certified operator, through on the job training with a certified operator, or through an apprenticeship with a contract operator who is certified. The required experience may also be accrued through the successful completion of an on-site or correspondence training course, approved by the OCPO Board or its designee.



City governments usually provide wastewater collection and treatment services. States and the federal government do not provide wastewater services. There are some private companies that operate wastewater treatment plants, but the plants themselves are owned by municipalities. So if you work as a wastewater operator, you will probably work for a city government. That usually means a steady job and good benefits.

## **WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO WORK WITH WASTEWATER?**

**First, wastewater collection and treatment is an essential service.**

Many human diseases, including cholera, typhoid fever, hepatitis, and poliomyelitis, are discharged from infected individuals in human waste. Without wastewater collection to keep these infectious agents away from healthy people and without treatment to kill the microorganisms that cause the diseases, these illnesses can spread quickly through the human population, causing severe illness or death. Wastewater collection and treatment is an essential public health service first and foremost.

**Second, wastewater collection and treatment protects the environment.**

Human beings and animals produce bodily wastes. Many business activities also produce wastes containing chemicals in much higher concentrations that would occur naturally. Wastewater collection and treatment remove these wastes and chemicals before they overwhelm natural systems, killing fish and other wildlife and reducing our quality of life.

**Third, wastewater operators are the only line of defense.**

The men and women who work in wastewater collection and treatment are the only ones who do the work of protecting public health and the environment from human waste. Nobody else – not the Congress, not the EPA, no state organization – collects and treats wastewater. Without wastewater operators, human waste would endanger lives and ruin the environment.

It is a job you can be proud of. And it's a career that will never go away.

## **WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT A CAREER IN WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT?**

If you would like more information about a career in the field of wastewater collection and treatment, the following resources will provide a starting point.

### **City of Pueblo Wastewater Department**

Nancy Keller ..... 553-2894  
Leon Marquez ..... 553-2268

### **On The Web**

Water Environment Federation  
<http://www.wef.org>

City of Pueblo  
<http://www.pueblo.us>  
(select City Departments/Contact Information, then select Wastewater at the bottom of the left-hand column)

Colorado Operator Certification Program Office  
<http://www.ocpoweb.com>

# *WASTEWATER COLLECTION*

## Career



**PUEBLO WASTEWATER**  
Protecting Our City and Planet

## Opportunities

*City of Pueblo*

