

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

- Control and monitor plant equipment and processes
- Make process control and/or system integrity decisions about water quality that may affect public health or the environment
- Assure treatment quality control by sampling and analyzing treatment processes
- Make timely operational adjustments to systems and processes
- Make frequent facility inspections or supervise such inspections to ensure facility security, equipment operation, and treatment process integrity.
- Performs laboratory and process control testing
- Assist in the maintaining plant equipment, grounds and buildings
- Operate biosolids handling equipment
- Operate heavy equipment such as trucks, loaders, and tractors
- Operate de-watering equipment such as centrifuges
- Operate a disinfection process to remove pathogenic microorganisms
- Maintain and prepare reports
- Use computer information systems to monitor treatment processes and analyze trends

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

Colorado offers four levels of certification ranging from a Class D certificate at the entry level to a Class A certificate at the most advanced level. The size of Pueblo's facility requires that a Class A 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

EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

Certification Level	Minimum Experience
Class D (entry level)	1 month ^A
Class C	2 years
Class B	3 years
Class A	4 years

^A Special rules for satisfying the minimum experience requirements of this regulation: Applicants for certification as Class D Operators may take the Class D examination before accruing the necessary experience for the certificate. The Class D 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.

Wastewater collection and treatment is an essential public health 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.

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 than 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 is 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
John Lindstrom 553-2866
John Millard 553-2889

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 TREATMENT

Career Opportunities



PUEBLO WASTEWATER
Protecting Our City and Planet

City of Pueblo

