

Job Description: Wastewater Lab Technician

Department: Laboratory / Wastewater Operations

Reports To: Laboratory Supervisor / Wastewater Superintendent

Location: Eastlake Wastewater Plant

FLSA Status: [Non-Exempt]

Type: Full-Time

Job Summary

The Wastewater Lab Technician performs routine and non-routine laboratory testing and monitoring to support wastewater collection, treatment, compliance, and operational decision-making. This role ensures accurate sample collection, proper preservation, timely analyses, documentation of results, and adherence to regulatory and safety requirements (including chain-of-custody and lab quality procedures).

Key Responsibilities

- Collect, label, preserve, and transport wastewater samples according to approved sampling plans and SOPs.
- Perform laboratory analyses in accordance with regulatory and internal standards, including (as applicable):
 - pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), turbidity, conductivity
 - BOD/COD, TSS, VSS, TKN, ammonia, nitrate/nitrite
 - Fecal coliform/total coliform (or other microbiological tests, if required)
 - Metals and other parameters as directed
- Operate and maintain laboratory instruments (e.g., spectrophotometer, incubators, balances, pH meters, titrators) and ensure calibration schedules are followed.
- Record results accurately in laboratory information systems (LIMS), spreadsheets, paper logs, and/or forms.
- Perform QA/QC activities such as blanks, duplicates, standards, calibration checks, and control samples.
- Identify out-of-spec results, initiate corrective actions per procedure, and communicate issues to supervisors.
- Maintain laboratory cleanliness, organization, waste handling areas, and proper disposal of chemical/biological waste.
- Ensure compliance with all safety procedures, including use of PPE, spill response practices, and chemical handling requirements.
- Support regulatory sampling events, audits, and inspections by preparing documentation and providing data as requested.
- Assist with routine maintenance and minor repairs of lab equipment; escalate major issues.
- Follow chain-of-custody, sample integrity requirements, and document retention policies.

Required Qualifications

- High school diploma or equivalent; associate degree or coursework in environmental science, chemistry, biology, wastewater technology, or a related field preferred.
- Experience with laboratory testing and/or wastewater sampling preferred (entry-level candidates may be considered).
- Ability to accurately record data and follow SOPs and regulatory requirements.
- Basic knowledge of laboratory equipment operation and measurement principles.
- Strong attention to detail, organizational skills, and ability to work in a fast-paced environment.
- Ability to work safely with chemicals, biological materials, and lab equipment.

Certifications (Preferred / As Applicable)

- Valid driver's license (if field sampling is required)
- Relevant wastewater/lab certification(s), such as:
 - Grade IV wastewater operator/lab certification (if required locally)
 - OSHA or lab safety training (or willingness to complete)
 - Any applicable microbiology or permit-related certification

Physical Requirements / Work Environment

- Ability to lift and carry laboratory supplies and sample containers (commonly up to 25–40 lbs, depending on facility requirements).
- Ability to stand, walk, and move throughout the plant and lab environment for extended periods.
- Work in environments that may include odors, wet surfaces, and exposure to wastewater-related hazards.
- Frequent use of PPE (gloves, eye protection, lab coat/coveralls) and compliance with safety protocols.

Skills & Competencies

- Proficiency in basic math, data interpretation, and scientific measurement.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to troubleshoot basic analytical issues and work through corrective actions.
- Team-oriented mindset and commitment to quality and compliance.

Benefits (Edit as Needed)

- Medical, dental, vision insurance
- Paid time off and holidays
- Retirement plan (e.g., 401(k))
- Training and certification support
- Uniform/PPE and safety resources

Equal Opportunity Statement

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