



# CITY OF HOUSTON

## JOB DESCRIPTION

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Job Code: 561.3

Job Title: **SENIOR PLANT OPERATOR**

Pay Grade: 15

### **GENERAL SUMMARY:**

Operates, maintains and monitors water or wastewater treatment systems and sludge processing equipment to comply with state and federal permits.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Oversees the operation of multiple water or wastewater treatment facilities.
- Monitors and maintains equipment and the conveyance system, and reports malfunctions to expedite repairs. Clears blockages in lines, cleans clarifiers and pumps, and monitors mechanical and chemical processes in more than one location.
- Inspects and tests working conditions on all equipment. Compares readings on equipment and processes with established operational ranges to evaluate system performance. Initiates system changes within established guidelines to effect process control.
- Prepares work schedules and assigns personnel shift duties. Provides on-the-job training to operators and trainees.
- Frequently performs simple chemical analysis to ensure proper chemical balances.
- Conducts aeration, re-aeration, raw and digester samplings.
- Performs general cleaning of equipment and work areas, including backwash of filters as scheduled or required.
- Prepares and maintains reports and logs.
- Collects, analyzes and monitors data relevant to maintaining efficient water/wastewater treatment operations.
- Communicates and coordinates work with other operators and support personnel by radio, telephone and telemetry equipment.
- Assists in providing plant tours, equipment checks and inspections.
- May be assigned to a control center or plant control room as a "lead person" for monitoring of multiple systems.
- Performs other duties as requested.

### **SPECIFICATIONS:**

#### **KNOWLEDGE:**

Requires a high school diploma or a GED certificate. Requires a valid Texas driver's license and compliance with the City of Houston's policy on driving.

## **SPECIFICATIONS: (continued)**

### **EXPERIENCE:**

Two years of plant operation experience are required.

**Certification:** Requires a valid Texas Class "C" Water or Wastewater Operator's certificate appropriate to position location, such as surface water, groundwater, distribution, or wastewater treatment.

### **COMPLEXITY:**

Work consists of standard procedures and tasks where analytic ability is required in following guidelines, policies and procedures.

### **IMPACT OF ACTIONS:**

Errors in work could lead to moderate expenses and inconveniences. Work is typically performed under moderate supervision and within standard operating procedures. The incumbent occasionally can function autonomously, with the supervisor available to answer questions as they arise.

### **SUPERVISION EXERCISED:**

#### **Direct Supervision:**

Involves general scheduling and review of work as a "working supervisor" or lead person.

#### **Indirect Supervision:**

No indirect reports.

### **CONTACTS:**

#### **Internal Contacts:**

Level of internal contact is extremely infrequent with virtually no contact beyond the immediate work unit/area. Interaction involves routine information exchange and/or simple service activity requiring common courtesy; e.g., answering questions, giving directions in response to simple requests.

#### **External Contacts:**

Level of external contact is primarily with lower-level service representative and vendors. Interaction involves routine information exchange and/or simple service activity that requires common courtesy; e.g., directing calls and answering simple questions.

### **PHYSICAL EFFORT:**

The position requires lifting of heavy items of up to 60 pounds and/or walking on rough surfaces routinely and/or regular physical exertion such as climbing of ladders.

### **WORK ENVIRONMENT:**

There are frequent exposures to extreme levels of temperature, air pollution, noise pollution, chemical gases and substances, and/or contagious diseases or physical trauma conditions of a short-term disabling nature, such as broken bones or temporary loss of sight or hearing.

### **PHYSICAL SKILL:**

Requires the ability to make coordinated gross motor movements in response to changing external stimuli within moderately demanding tolerances; or the ability to make coordinated eye/hand movements on a patterned response space within low tolerance demands with no real speed requirements.

## **MISCELLANEOUS:**

All duties and responsibilities may not be included in the above job description.

## **JOB FAMILY:**

Plant Operator Trainee  
Plant Operator  
Senior Plant Operator  
Plant Operator Supervisor