City of Kalama

Incorporated 1890

Position Description

Position Title:	**Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator**	**Last Revised:**	**10/29/2026**
Position Status:	**Regular Full-Time**	**FLSA:**	**Non-Exempt**
Department:	**Public Works**	**Union**	**Union**
Supervisor:	**WWTP Supervisor/PW Director**	**Salary Range**	**$36.05-$37.49/hr**

Position Description

The Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the City's municipal sewage treatment and collection facilities. Work involves the operation, maintenance and repair of the wastewater treatment plant including aerators, clarifiers, sludge digester, pumping facilities, the management of sludge disposal, and laboratory testing. Includes the operation and maintenance of wastewater lift stations. Position also requires support of other functions of the Public Works Department.

Essential Job Duties

- Performs written and oral communication.
- Read charts and meters accurately and maintain accurate records of plant operations.
- Uses hand tools in making adjustments and repairs to equipment and machinery.
- Deal courteously and tactfully with the public and other City employees.
- Performs the collection and testing of wastewater samples to assure adequate treatment process and compliance with regulatory standards.
- Manages the operation of pumps, motors, blowers and other plant equipment.
- Maintains gauges, meters and other plant testing and measuring devices to ensure proper functioning of equipment.
- Under the direction of the supervisor/lead operator may prepare necessary periodic reports on plant operations.
- May collect monthly potable water samples and deliver them to the Health Department.
- Operates a city vehicle during work hours.
- Participates in the cleaning, maintenance and repair of plant buildings and grounds.
- Operate the WWTP during periods of absence of Senior Operator
- Operate and maintain wastewater lift stations.
- Performs basic computer tasks and data entry.
- Performs special projects or tasks assigned by supervisor.
- Assists with all other Public Works Department tasks.
- Duties of this position include but are not limited to those listed or referenced herein.

Knowledge, Skills & Guidelines

- Requires physical ability sufficiently to perform essential job duties.
- Knowledge of the principles, practices, machines, equipment, materials and operating procedures of a municipal sewage treatment plant.
- Knowledge of the standard methods for examination of wastewater.
- Knowledge of laboratory techniques and procedures related to sewage treatment analysis.
- Knowledge of mechanics, hydraulics and electricity associated with necessary maintenance and operation of plant equipment.

Working Environment

Work is performed both inside and outside of plant facility. May work in extreme weather conditions including ice, snow, rain, and during hot summer months. Exposure to chemical irritants produced by solvents or chemicals. Employees are exposed to vibrations, loud noises, offensive smells, dust, dirt, and raw sewage. Normal safety precautions are required; and the incumbent may wear protective clothing and equipment such as rain/snow gear, boots, goggles, and gloves. Work includes working in confined spaces of manholes, catch basins, and trenches during wet conditions. Work requires physical exertion such as long periods of standing, walking over rough, uneven surfaces, and recurring bending, crouching, stooping and reaching, and occasional lifting of moderately heavy items. Work requires average physical agility and dexterity.

Qualifications & Education

- Graduate from High School or GED
- Hold valid Washington State driver's license.
- History of work in wastewater industry is helpful.
- Any suitable combination of work experience, education and training which demonstrates the ability to perform the job.

Special Requirements

- Hold or obtain a First Aid/CPR Card within 60 days.
- Hold or obtain a State of Washington Flagging and Traffic Control Card within 60 days.
- Must have required Washington Sewage Treatment Plant Operator II certification or the ability to obtain certification within 6 months.

Wages and Benefits

This is an hourly position that may require overtime and/or on-call availability. The position is represented by Teamsters Local 58 and is subject to the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

The City of Kalama offers a comprehensive benefits package, including:

- Full-family medical coverage (employer/employee paid)
- Washington State PERS retirement (employee/employer contributions)
- VEBA-HRA benefits (employee/employer contributions)
- Employer-paid life insurance
- Deferred compensation plan available to all full-time employees
- Employer-Paid Employee Assistance Program
- Vacation, Sick, and Holiday pay
- Optional AFLAC and Colonial Life supplemental insurance (employee contributions)

The statement contained herein reflects general details as necessary to describe the principal function of this job, the level of knowledge and skills typically required, and the scope of responsibility, but should not be considered all-inclusive as to work that may be assigned.

The City of Kalama is an equal opportunity employer. Applications can be found at cityofkalama.com or can be picked up at Kalama City Hall, 195 N,1st Street, Kalama WA, 98625. For questions on the job posting, please contact Public Works Director Kelly Rasmussen at 360-673-4567 or krasmussen@cityofkalama.com . Job position will be open until filled.