

CHEMIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is professional work of a complex nature involving responsibility for directing the laboratory operations for the testing and analysis of wastewater at a wastewater treatment plant. The work is performed independently, with occasional general direction provided by an administrator and in accordance with the Standard Methods of the New York State Department of Health. This position may provide supervision and instruction to subordinates. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Designs, develops and implements new and revised laboratory methods and supervises and monitors mandatory state and federal regulations;
Prepares chemical solutions necessary to run tests on wastewater;
Establishes procedures for the collection of samples for testing;
Runs chemical analyses of wastewater;
Runs tests related to oxygen demand and solids concentration on samples collected from industries within the town;
Prepares the annual budget for laboratory equipment and supplies;
Orders equipment and laboratory supplies;
Supervises and/or instructs others in the performance of laboratory tests, in the sampling process or in general laboratory procedures;
Monitors laboratory equipment and performs minor repairs or arranges for repairs of the same;
Ensures adherence to established standards of proficiency and quality control;
Makes recommendations as to the strength of the chemical solutions to be used in wastewater treatment.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of analytic chemistry; thorough knowledge of analytic laboratory equipment, procedures and techniques; good knowledge of the Standard Methods of the New York State Department of Health; ability to direct the work of others.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

1. A Bachelor's degree or higher in Biology, Chemistry or a comparable laboratory science and three (3) years of hands-on experience performing chemist functions in applied chemical practices*; or
2. Graduation from high school or possession of an equivalency diploma and seven (7) years of hands-on experience performing chemist functions in applied chemical practices*; or
3. An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by 1. or 2. above.

*Examples of performing chemist functions in applied chemical practices include but are not limited to conducting experiments, analyzing samples, quality control, formulating products, research and development, data interpretation, safety and compliance, technical support, etc. These activities demonstrate the practical application of chemistry knowledge in various settings (e.g., laboratories, industrial plants, environmental agencies, research institutions, etc.).