

ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY SPECIALIST II

NATURE OF WORK

This is professional environmental laboratory work.

Work involves collecting and analyzing environmental and drinking water samples; providing analytical test results so that environmentally threatening situations are detected, monitored and corrected in compliance with State and Federal regulations. Work also involves, but is not limited to, wastewater plant and water treatment plant operations and compliance; industrial and special waste compliance monitoring; well field supply; river and distribution monitoring; and water quality monitoring. Work is performed under the general supervision of an administrative superior and reviewed through reports submitted and conferences.

EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED

Analyzes drinking water and environmental samples using established methodology, high levels of quality control/assurance, and the ability to recognize and correct interferences to standard testing.

Analyzes special environmental samples and samples from special projects, as assigned to meet requests, using methodology specified by laboratory supervisor or other administrative superior.

Facilitates and performs sampling and testing at various locations including City property, homes, businesses, schools, childcare facilities, other community buildings and within the Water System.

Implements changes in existing techniques and procedures to ensure or improve upon the quality and reliability of data generated and reported, using recommendations from other staff, and observations based on laboratory experience.

Completes and maintains test records and compliance reports in accordance with federal and state regulatory requirements through submittals to laboratory supervisor.

Responds to water quality issues and concerns from individual citizens, businesses or public institutions.

Works with public health monitoring agencies and the medical community, as required, during investigations of possible waterborne disease outbreaks or contamination sources.

Works with consulting engineers, federal or state agencies or universities on pilot plant studies or special projects regarding various treatment schemes, well field or river studies.

Studies new developments in appropriate areas of water treatment, drinking water and environmental sample analyses through the use of literature, conferences and other sources, in order to be aware of new procedures, instruments and techniques, and to improve the accuracy and efficiency of current procedures and instrumentation.

Monitors and trains less experienced personnel, as necessary, so that reliable data is generated and instruments calibrated and operated properly, using expertise and specialized knowledge gained from study and experience.

May testify on procedures, results and instrumentation used in analysis of samples at prelitigation meetings or in court proceedings; may provide expert testimony in area of specialization as needed.

May serve as laboratory supervisor.

Maintains regular and reliable attendance.

Performs related work as required.

DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES AND SKILLS

Considerable knowledge of analytical techniques, scientific applications and instrumentation used in the measurement of chemical and biological constituents, and of any required mathematical calculations and interpretations of data and facts.

Considerable knowledge of federal, state and local environmental laws, rules and regulations and their application to environmental programs or to public water systems.

Considerable knowledge of electronic data processing as applied to a laboratory data management system.

Considerable knowledge of literature and approved analytical methods, and the application of these concepts to human health, environmental exposure and analysis.

Considerable knowledge of current and emerging computer programming languages, operating systems, hardware and system management processes necessary to perform work functions.

Ability to perform mathematical calculations, statistical analysis and interpretation of data and trends.

Ability to organize and conduct technical and scientific investigations and lead the work of less experienced personnel.

Ability to develop or revise methods and procedures to carry out work objectives in an efficient, cost effective and safe manner.

Ability to communicate effectively at a highly technical level both verbally and in writing.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with co-workers, supervisors and the general public.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with major coursework in environmental science or technology, chemistry, biology, geology, hydrology, engineering or closely related field and two years of experience at a professional level in an environmental laboratory; or any equivalent combination of training and experience that provides the desirable knowledge, abilities and skills.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENT

Possession of a valid driver's license when operating a vehicle is necessary to the satisfactory performance of assigned duties.

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