

WATER QUALITY ANALYST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This professional position exists at the Upper Mohawk Valley Regional Water Board, and involves responsibility for the performance of chemical and microbiological analysis of water, and the determination of the required dosages of chemicals for proper drinking water quality. Employees may also perform research in water analysis techniques and publish results. The chemical analysis performed by employees of this class assists in the operation of the water purification system and the processing of water plant wastes. The employee reports directly to, and works under, the general supervision of a senior level staff member. General supervision may be exercised over other laboratory employees for specific tasks or special projects. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative Only)

Performs chemical and microbiological analysis of water to test for such conditions as chlorine, color and odor;
Prepares technical reports on water quality for New York State, Oneida County and various towns serviced by the Water Board;
Conducts special studies and tests for improvements of water quality;
Assists in research projects concerning water contaminants, taste and odor;
Prepares reagents according to Information Collection Rule Standards;
Assists in the development and maintenance of a Laboratory Manual, in accordance with New York State Health Department requirements for Laboratory Certification;
Assists in water quality testing for the Central Processing Facility;
Maintains safety standards in the laboratory;
Uses micro-computer word processing and digital imaging software in performance of duties;
Aides in researching sources of water contaminants in watershed and distribution system;
Performs a variety of technical water analysis activities to aid in maintaining State and Federal Water Quality Standards;
Receives and logs in biological samples for protozoan pathogen analysis;
Initiates chain-of-custody information, documents and monitors progress of processing;
Prepares a variety of records and reports related to the work.

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FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Good knowledge of chemical and microbiological testing techniques required which are related to the operation of a public water system, including brightfield, epifluorescent and differential interference microscopy; good knowledge of the correct measures to improve water potability; good knowledge of the operations of a water treatment plant; ability to plan and supervise the work of others; ability to make accurate chemical and microbiological analysis of water; ability to deal well with the public; ability to instruct others; ability to use computer imaging and word processing software; ability to keep inventories, records and logs; ability to conduct research and publish water quality results; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with professional and other employees; computer literacy.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelor Degree in one of the biological or environmental sciences, which included a minimum of (24) semester credit hours in biology, **AND** one (1) year of experience in laboratory analysis.

NOTE: Possession of a Master's Degree in one of the biological or environmental sciences, including a minimum of (18) semester credit hours in biology, may substitute for the one year of experience.