



## Water/Wastewater System Operations Specialist Apprenticeship Program

New Mexico Rural Water Association

PO Box 92738, Albuquerque, NM 87199

Phone (505) 884-1031 · Toll Free (800) 819-9893 · Fax (505) 884-1032

To Apply: <https://apprenticeship.nrwa.org> Website: <https://nmrwa.org>

**A Water Operator** is an employee, agent or contractor of a town who has been hired or contracted to maintain, repair, adjust or otherwise operate any portion of the Public Water System under the direction or supervision of the Director.

**What does a Water Operator do?** Ensures adequate, safe and pleasant drinking water is delivered to everyone's tap (no waterborne disease), adds chemicals such as ammonia, chlorine or lime to disinfect water or other liquids, operates, inspects, lubricates, maintains & repairs equipment, collects and tests water samples, records meter and gauge readings and operational data, operates equipment to purify and clarify water, cleans and maintains equipment, tanks and filter beds, keeps records, manages facilities, stays current on environmental laws and regulations, ensures safety standards are met and adequate amounts of water and pressure are available during times of emergency, such as a fire.

**A Wastewater Operator** is an individual trained in the treatment of wastewater who has the practical working knowledge of the chemical, biological and physical sciences essential to the practical mechanics of wastewater treatment and who can conduct and maintain wastewater treatment processes in a manner which is safe. They make process control decisions and through observation, interpretation, or decision making at a wastewater treatment plant.

**What does a Wastewater Operator do?** Collects and tests water and sewage samples, add chemicals such as polymers to help particles to separate out from the water, chlorine and ammonia to disinfect the water or other liquids running through the plant, cleans and maintains equipment including tanks, general work areas and filter beds, mows grass, eradicates weeds, manages a system of machines, sometimes using control boards, to transfer or treat wastewater, records meter readings, performs maintenance on equipment on a regular basis and ensures all government safety regulations and standards are met.

**WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT? If you don't love it, you can't really be successful in it. Understand what you like. It is very important in this industry. If you don't love it, you're not going to spend the extra time in it, stay late, invest in your education to further your career.**

### **WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME A CERTIFIED WATER AND/OR WASTEWATER OPERATOR:**

- Good work ethic, attitude, always alert, focused and disciplined
- Willingness to work indoors, outdoors, nights, weekends, holidays as plants are always running
- Strong mathematical, mechanical and science skills
- Ability to read charts, graphs and maps & engage in logical processes for troubleshooting
- Excellent interpersonal, verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to create records and observations, report issues and lapse of best practices
- Articulate issues, problems and processes clearly
- Work can be potentially hazardous from slips, falls and dangerous gases
- Demonstrates a strong commitment to plant safety activities, practices and standards



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### Minimum Qualifications for Water/Wastewater Apprenticeship

- 18 years old (driver's license or birth certificate for proof of age)
- Valid driver's license and be insurable at the normal commercial rates
- Graduated from HS, or have a GED/HS diploma, Submit Official High School and College transcripts (if applicable), or GED certificate
- Physically capable of performing essential functions of the apprenticeship program, with or without a reasonable accommodation and without posing a threat to the health and safety of the individual or others.
- Drug Screening: May be required for acceptance into the program and prior to employment.
- Background Check: May be required to pass a qualifying background investigation upon selection into the program and prior to employment.
- Open to anyone currently employed or seeking employment in the water and wastewater sector as well as those not employed in the water and wastewater sector
- 2-year program for water operator/2-year program for wastewater operator
- Accumulate 288 related instruction class hours and 4,000 on-the-job training hours for each program (water & wastewater).
- **Applications will be accepted now and, on a rolling, year-round basis.**
- To apply go to <https://apprenticeship.nrwa.org>, click on Get Started.
- Review and sign Standards of Apprenticeship, sign, date and upload last page.
- Upload documentation: Driver's license or birth certificate, high school/GED/College transcript(s), DD 214, etc.
- Once minimum qualifications are met, you will be emailed notification when and where to appear for an interview (whether in person or Zoom).
- After the interview, a written summary of judgement and rating score will be emailed.
- Once a position opens, you will be notified by phone or email scheduling orientation and start date of work.
- **Job Corps** - submit water/wastewater documentation for evaluation for direct entry
- **Structured Pre-Apprenticeship** - submit water/wastewater documentation for evaluation for direct entry
- **Veteran** - submit water/wastewater documentation and DD 214 for evaluation for direct entry. Will not need high school/GED/college documentation.
- **Youth Build Training** - submit water/wastewater documentation for evaluation for direct entry.
- **After completing the program**, you will have acquired a Water Level 2 and Completion certificate from the Department of Workforce Solutions.

New Mexico Rural Water Association Water/Wastewater Systems Operation Specialist Apprenticeship Program will not discriminate against apprenticeship applicants or apprentices based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), sexual orientation, genetic information, or because they are an individual with a disability or a person 40 years old or older. The NM Rural Water Association Water/Wastewater Systems Operation Specialist Apprenticeship Program will take affirmative action to provide equal opportunity in apprenticeship and will operate the apprenticeship program as required under Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 30 and 11.2.2 NMAC.