



South Dakota
High Demand
&
High Wage
Career

Career Cluster: Agriculture, Food,
and Natural Resources

Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Operators



Standard Occupational Code 51-8031

What They Do

Operate or control an entire process or system of machines, often through the use of control boards, to transfer or treat water or wastewater. They may add chemicals, such as ammonia or chlorine, to disinfect water or other liquids to keep it safe for its intended use.

Is This For You?

Work Interests are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

Realistic (Doers) — Prefer to work with objects, things, machines, tools, plants or animals. They have mechanical ability, enjoy being outdoors and working with their hands.

Conventional (Organizers) — Detail oriented and organized. They like to analyze data, keep financial records and do research. They can be counted on to be accurate and enjoy structure and closure.

Work Values are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

Support — Occupations that satisfy this work value offer supportive management that stands behind employees.

Independence — Allow employees to work on their own and make decisions.

Achievement — Results oriented, allow use of strongest abilities and provide feeling of accomplishment.

Abilities reflect a person's aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career:

- Oral Comprehension
- Oral Expression
- Near Vision
- Written Comprehension
- Deductive Reasoning
- Perceptual Speed
- Problem Sensitivity
- Inductive Reasoning
- Information Ordering

Basic Skills You Need

- Operations Monitoring
- Operation & Control
- Monitoring
- Active Listening
- Quality Control Analysis
- Critical Thinking

Education & Training

A high school diploma is generally the minimum educational requirement. Much training is done on the job, including specialized training on regulatory requirements, safety precautions and procedures.

A registered apprenticeship is another option for preparing for this occupation. To learn more, visit StartTodaySD.com or contact your local Job Service office to get started.

Recommended Levels* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

Applied Math	4
Workplace Documents	4
Graphic Literacy	4

*Using the median skill level.

Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of water and wastewater treatment plant operators are:

- Government
- Utilities
- Manufacturing

South Dakota Employment & Wages

2022 Employment	2032 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
886	915	29	3.3%	86	\$52,000	\$54,180

Additional References

Labor Market Information Center

www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online

www.onetonline.org

mySkills myFuture

<https://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/>

Provided By

Labor Market Information Center
South Dakota Dept. of Labor and Regulation
605.626.2314

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