



Responsibilities of Owners and Operators at Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs)

Facility Owners

- Ensure a sewage treatment facility is operated by a certified operator at or above the grade of the facility.
- When an operator is replaced the facility owner shall notify the Department in writing within 10 days.
- The facility is operated in compliance with all issued permits.
- In the absence of the operator in direct responsible charge, the relief operator is certified at a grade no lower than one grade below the grade of the facility.
- Grade 3 or Grade 4 facilities have an onsite operator of the grade of the facility in charge of the facility.
- A person shall not bypass or release sewage or partially treated sewage that has not completed the treatment process from a sewage treatment facility.
- The sewage treatment facility shall be operated so offensive odors are minimized or not emitted.

On-site Operators - *Operators who visit the site at least daily to ensure the Facility is operating properly.*

- An operator makes all decisions about process control or system integrity regarding water quality or water quantity that affects public health.
- The lead operator is certified for the category of each facility and at or above the grade of the facility.
- An operator shall operate each facility in compliance with applicable state and federal law.
- An operator shall notify the Department in writing within 10 days of either ceases operation of a facility or commences operation of another facility.

Remote Operators - *Operators that are not on-site operators visiting daily, but at least Monthly for Grade 1 WWTPs and Weekly for Grade 2 WWTP's.*

An operator holding certification in a particular class and grade may operate one or more Grade 1 or Grade 2 facilities as a remote operator if the facility owner ensures that the following:

- The operator is certified for the class of each facility and at or above the grade of each facility operated.
- There is an onsite representative for each facility.
- The operator instructs, supervises, and provides written instructions to the onsite representative.
- The onsite representative is not required to be an operator if the facility has a remote operator who is certified at or above the grade of the facility.
- The operator ensures that adequate records are kept. Maintains a logbook and records at each facility.
- The operator provides the onsite representative with the name and telephone number of a qualified substitute operator who will be available while the remote operator is not available.
- The operator resides no more than 200 miles by ground travel from any facility operated.
- The operator operates each facility in compliance with applicable state and federal laws.

Definitions:

“Certified operator” or “operator” means an individual who holds a current certificate issued by the Department in the field of water or wastewater treatment, water distribution, or wastewater-collection.

“Category” means wastewater treatment or wastewater collection.

“Direct responsible charge” means day-to-day decision making responsibility for a facility or a major portion of a facility.

“Facility” means a water treatment plant, wastewater treatment plant, distribution system, or collection system.

“Onsite operator” means an operator who visits a facility at least daily to ensure that the facility is operating properly.

“Remote operator” means an operator who is not an onsite operator.

“Wastewater” means sewage, industrial waste, and all other waterborne waste that may pollute any lands or waters of the state.

“Wastewater treatment plant” means a process, device, or structure used to treat or stabilize wastewater or industrial waste and dispose of the effluent.