How do I Become a Certified Wastewater Operator?

What Do I Submit?

Your certification exam application must be received with the $150 payment and contain all of the following:

1. A completed and signed Application for Approval of Qualifications for WWTP Operator;
2. A completed and signed (by you and your supervisor) WWTP Operator Statement of Experience form;
3. A copy of your high school diploma, GED or college diploma;
4. A copy of all your pre-certification training certificates;
5. Mail the complete certification packet to: NYWEA, 525 Plum Street, Suite 102, Syracuse, NY 13204; and
6. Once application is approved you will be mailed instructions to take the AMP Certification exam.

If you have any questions, call 315-422-7811 x4 or contact Tanya May Jennings at tmj@nywea.org.

Making a Difference Today for Tomorrow’s Environment.

“I am proud to be a Wastewater Professional. Each and every day I come to work and get to make my little piece of the world a better place by protecting our environment. My days are never boring and never the same, and I am fortunate to work with an exceptional and diverse group of people who love what they do. Who’s got it better than me?”

Donna Bee
Senior Operator, Northport Wastewater Treatment Facility, Northport, NY
6.5 years’ experience

“I have always had the desire to work in the environmental field to protect the health of our environment and the communities that use it. The protection of our environment is important to all of us and some of us are fortunate to be given the opportunity to participate in making an impact.”

Tim Murphy
Executive Director, Albany County Sewer District, 35 years’ experience

Call today to learn more about this exciting and rewarding field!

NYWEA, 525 Plum Street, Suite 102
Syracuse, NY 13204

Tanya May Jennings, Certification Administrator
Phone: 315-422-7811 x 4 • Fax: 315-422-3851
E-mail: tmj@nywea.org • Visit nywea.org.

All information in this brochure was taken from the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certification Manual, found at http://nywea.org/OpCert/CertificationManual_081511.pdf.

Cover: WWTP licensed operators Justin Slentz and Alison Perez shown by one of 26 recirculation pumps in the Recirculation Pumping Station at the Frank E. VanLare WWTP in Rochester, NY.

Photo by Trent Wellott, T Wellott Photography, http://twphoto.us

Become a Part of Your Community’s Environmental Leadership.
**Become an operator and help protect our most valuable resources—the water and the environment of New York State!**

**Requirements for Certification**

Per the NYS DEC Regulation 6NYCRR Part 650, the certification grades are divided into four levels: 1, 2, 3 and 4, with 1 being the lowest and 4 the highest grade. Based on the facilities SPDES Discharge Permit, this will determine what Classification you can test for.

All activated sludge wastewater treatment plant certifications will further be designated with the letter "A" (1A, 2A, 3A and 4A).

Other treatment process certifications have no letter designation. The "A" certification can be in responsible charge of either type wastewater treatment plant and a non "A" can only be in responsible charge of "Other Treatment Process”.

**SPDES Discharge Classification**

Grade 1: Discharge Permit under 31
Grade 2: Discharge Permit of 31 or higher
Grade 3: Discharge Permit of 56 or higher
Grade 4: Discharge Permit of 76 or higher

**Grade 1 & 1A**
- You must have at least 6 months of approved hands on operations experience.
- You must have completed the necessary certification training requirements:
  - Basic Operations Course or one of the Home Study Options (see our website for complete list of home study options)

**Grade 2 & 2A**
- You must have at least 1 year of approved hands on operations experience.
- You must have completed the necessary certification training requirements:
  - Basic Operations Course
  - Basic Laboratory Course
  - Grade 2A–Activated Sludge Course

**Grade 3 & 3A**
- You must have at least 1.5 years of approved hands on operations experience at a 3/3A facility. Depending on your education level, you may need additional experience.
  a) High School graduate: You need an additional 3 years at any WWTP with a SPDES Discharge Permit.
  b) AAS, Associates of Science or any Associates of Arts (with 30 hours of Math and Science) graduate: You need an additional 3 years at any WWTP with a SPDES Discharge Permit.
  c) Approved AAS graduate: You need an additional 1.5 years at any WWTP with a SPDES Discharge Permit.
  d) Bachelor of Science or any Bachelor of Arts (with 30 hours of Math and Science) graduates do not need any additional time.

**Grade 3 Supervision and Technical Operations Course or Home Study Option plus the one day Technical Operations Module (see our website for home study option)**
Grade 3A–Activated Sludge Course

**Grade 4 & 4A**
- You must have at least 2 years of approved hands on operations experience at a 4/4A Facility. Depending on your education level, you may need additional experience.
  a) High School graduate: You need an additional 6 years at any WWTP with a SPDES Discharge Permit.
  b) AAS, Associates of Science or any Associates of Arts (with 30 hours of Math and Science) graduate: You need an additional 3 years at any WWTP with a SPDES Discharge Permit.
  c) Approved AAS graduate: You need an additional 1.5 years at any WWTP with a SPDES Discharge Permit.
  d) Bachelor of Science or any Bachelor of Arts (with 30 hours of Math and Science) graduates do not need any additional time.

**Grade 4 Supervision and Technical Operations Course or Home Study Option plus the one day Technical Operations Module (see our website for home study option)**
Grade 4A–Activated Sludge Course

**Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Visit nywea.org today!