

ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ASSISTANT
(Seasonal Summer Position)

Definition:

Professional and technical work assisting Laboratory staff with bacteriological and chemical analysis in accordance with standard methods for analysis of water and wastewater.

Supervision:

Works under the general supervision of the Laboratory Director; oral instructions are provided by the Director and other laboratory staff members.

Performs responsible duties requiring the exercise of judgment and initiative.

Job Environment:

Performs work under typical laboratory conditions with frequent interruptions from the environmental staff, town water department personnel, town health departments and the general public seeking test results; may have some risk of exposure to laboratory hazards daily.

Essential Functions:

The essential functions or duties listed below are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work that may be performed. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related, or a logical assignment to the position.

Assists the Laboratory Bacteriologist in performing bacteriological analysis of samples from bathing beaches, swimming pools, surface water, shell fishing areas and wastewater; analyses are conducted in accordance with Laboratory Standard Operating Procedures, and state certification requirements and standard methods.

Assists the Laboratory Bacteriologist in preparing media, buffers, and reagents required in analysis; assists in maintaining quality control of analyses, as detailed by the state Department of Environmental Protection and standard methods.

Performs pH and conductivity tests on water samples; assists the Laboratory Chemist in conducting analysis for nutrients including nitrates; sterilizes bottles and assists in all aspects of laboratory operations appropriate for the position, including sample collection.

RECOMMENDED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Education and Experience:

High school graduate with at least two years of courses in a Bachelor's degree program in bacteriology, chemistry or related field.

Special Requirements:

Valid Motor Vehicle Operator's License.

Knowledge, Ability and Skill:

Knowledge:

Knowledge of laboratory practices and procedures such as maintaining aseptic techniques.
Knowledge of computers and laboratory software helpful.

Ability:

Ability to operate various laboratory equipment.
Ability to deal with the public in a patient and courteous manner.

Skill:

Skill in operating selected laboratory equipment.

Physical Requirements:

Minimum physical effort generally required in performing duties under typical laboratory conditions. Position requires the use of hands almost continuously with sufficient dexterity for such tasks as pipeting and weighing. Occasionally required to lift objects weighing up to 30 pounds such as environmental instruments and carboys.