

East Columbia Basin Irrigation District
55 N. 8th Ave., PO Box E
Othello, WA 99344
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JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: System Operator
Department: O&M
Reports To: Sectional Watermaster
Pay Range: Group 1A
FLSA Status: Non-Exempt (Hourly)
Union: Yes

SUMMARY:

Operates irrigation control and delivery systems which involve monitoring and troubleshooting irrigation pumps and distribution systems that supply irrigation water to Columbia Basin Project lands. This position is responsible for ensuring reliable water delivery to lands as well as carrying out various jobs such as preventative maintenance of facilities, cleaning weed screens, spraying weeds, and keeping facilities and work areas clean and organized.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- During the irrigation season, the System Operator is assigned responsibility for a specific set of pumps and delivery facilities. Following the initial introduction of water in the system, the System Operator follows a daily routine which involves the following:
 - Receives water orders (written, oral or telephone).
 - Determines the total amount of water to be turned into their system and accomplishes the required diversions, in amounts calculated to minimize excess.
 - Follows a daily time schedule, to maintain the best possible relations with the water users while operating a system safely and efficiently.
 - Keeps accurate and detailed records of diversions, deliveries, waste and pump discharge, being responsible for accurately determining the effects of variations in flow, weather conditions, and/or outages on totals of such quantities during each 24-hour period.
 - Conducts inspections of the physical state of the delivery systems and the surrounding area to determine possible maintenance needs and to alleviate situations such as accumulation of weeds, silt, burrowing animals and moss growth.
 - Utilizes general knowledge of PLC's and troubleshooting skills.
 - Utilizes software for the monitoring, operations, maintenance and troubleshooting of systems.
 - Is responsible for keeping waterways and weed racks free of weeds. Burns and/or removes debris on racks, walkways and around system facilities. Controls weeds using burning, spraying and vegetation sterilization on system routes and turnouts.
 - Replaces and/or repairs O&M signs as needed.
- At the end of the irrigation season, the incumbent drains systems and performs other related work necessary for the discontinued use of the system over the winter.
- Working under the general supervision of the Watermaster and Assistant Watermaster, the System Operator receives oral and/or written instruction for work to be accomplished.
- Operates a variety of equipment and vehicles
- Responsible for collecting annual crop and livestock census information for farm units and water service contracts within the delivery systems.
- Maintains continuous personal contact with water users to confer with them on operational needs and policy adherence, to provide them with their water use records, to collect water orders, to

gather information and, as the Districts direct contact with them, maintains a professional and cooperative relationship with them.

- Must cooperate with other District personnel as their activities may affect District functions.
- Requires that the employee be generally available during the irrigation season, to perform emergency services to ensure efficient operation and adequate protection of the irrigation system.
- Performs canal maintenance tasks during the non-irrigation season.
- Remotely controls pump and delivery systems by various means as assigned.
- Other duties as assigned.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES:

None

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

The following job requirements are representative of the education, experience, knowledge, skills, and abilities required to successfully perform the duties of this position. Reasonable accommodation may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Education/Experience:

- High School diploma, GED or comparable education required
- General construction, maintenance and water handling experience preferred
- Irrigation background helpful

Knowledge/Skills/Abilities:

- Basic knowledge of mathematics and construction principles
- Ability to operate hand tools and heavy equipment
- Ability to maintain assigned ditchride
- Knowledge of general safety practices
- Ability to utilize screen tablet and HMI with District-supplied water management software.
- General knowledge of PLC's and troubleshooting abilities

Other:

- Must possess a valid Washington State CDL Class "A" driver's license or obtain the license within the probationary period.
- Good driving record (MVR must be provided as a condition of hire)
- Must possess a valid Public Pesticide Operators License with a Weed Control and Aquatic Irrigation endorsement or obtain the license within the probationary period.
- Must pass a criminal background check and pre-employment drug screen as a condition of employment.
- Must display a positive attitude and promote teamwork.
- Must display a courteous, respectful and tactful manner with supervisor, co-workers and the public.
- Must follow all District safety policies.
- May need to live within ten miles of assigned route.
- May need to live in required District housing.

Physical Demands:

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- Must be able to lift and/or pull up to 75 lbs
- Must be able to ascend and descend a ladder or scaffolding
- Must be able to bend, crouch, stoop, kneel, and stand for long periods
- Must be able to grip, grasp, and handle objects such as tools and small parts
- Must be able to reach and pull above your head
- Must be able to communicate clearly, both orally and in writing

Working Conditions:

This position will expose the worker to environmental conditions found both indoors and outdoors.

- May be exposed to extreme temperatures (heat and cold)
- May be required to work in close quarters and cramped spaces
- Will frequently be exposed to fumes, odors, dust and other pollutants
- Will frequently be exposed to hazards such as rapidly moving water
- May be exposed to heights up to 20'
- May be exposed to hazards such as moving parts, rotating blades, electrical current, etc.
- May be exposed to loud noise levels

Compensation:

Wage: Hourly rate

- Step 1- \$26.00 (effective 03.19.26)
- Step 2- \$27.55
- Step 3- \$28.60
- Step 4- \$29.80

Benefits:

- Health Insurance
 - Including medical, dental and vision
- Basic life insurance, Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) and long-term disability
 - Supplemental life, AD&D and long-term disability insurance available
- Annual & Sick Leave
- Nine paid holidays, two 3 ½ hour Holidays, one Floating Holiday
- WA Public Employees Retirement System
- Voluntary Washington Deferred Compensation Program

This is a full-time position. Normal hours during water season will be Monday through Friday 7:00 AM to 3:30PM, but could vary. Normal non-water season hours are 7:30am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday. Saturdays may be required during the water season and at other times as necessary for the operation of the District. Overtime and emergency callouts may be required.

The System Operator position is classified as a bargaining unit position and is covered by the collective bargaining agreement (See Section II.d. of the Personnel Practices and Procedures Manual).

