



CITY OF ITHACA

108 East Green Street Ithaca, New York 14850-5690

OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES / CIVIL SERVICE

Telephone: 607 / 274-6539 Fax: 607 / 274-6574 E-mail: hrdept@cityofithaca.org

SENIOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR PROMOTIONAL EXAM NO. 74-771

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL:

January 16, 2019

EXAMINATION WILL BE HELD:

March 2, 2019

ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS: Applications must be received by the City of Ithaca Human Resources Department no later than 4:30 PM EST on the last filing date indicated above. Postmarks are not accepted. All applications must be original applications, either hard copy or electronically submitted through our online application program. We do not accept faxed applications, e-mailed applications or photocopies of applications.

APPLICATION MATERIALS REQUIRED: An original City of Ithaca promotional application and copy of Grade 3A Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator certificate.

PROMOTIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates must be permanently employed in the competitive class as a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator with the City of Ithaca Wastewater Treatment Facility, and must have served continuously on a permanent or contingent permanent basis as a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator with the City of Ithaca Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator for twelve (12) months immediately preceding the date of the written test.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Candidates must possess a current Grade 3A Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator certificate issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at the time of appointment and must obtain a Grade 4A Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator certificate issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation within two (2) years of appointment. Said licenses must be maintained for the duration of employment.
2. Possession of a valid driver license appropriate to the vehicles or equipment operated. Said license must be maintained for the duration of employment.

BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION: Applicants may be required to undergo a State and national criminal history background investigation, which will include a fingerprint check, to determine suitability for appointment. Failure to meet the standards for the background investigation may result in disqualification.

VACANCIES: Currently, there are four (4) vacancies with the City of Ithaca Wastewater Treatment Facility. The eligible list established as a result of this examination may be used to fill this vacancy and any future vacancies that may occur during the life of the eligible list.

SALARY: \$50,690 - \$63,361 (2019 rate)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The work involves responsibility for supervising and participating in the operation and maintenance of a wastewater treatment plant utilizing an activated sludge process. The incumbent plans and oversees the details of assigned work projects and supervises plant operators, operator trainees, and work site activities on an assigned shift. The incumbent oversees the operation of, and operates, a variety of plant equipment and machinery and performs laboratory tests and other analyses relative to wastewater treatment processes. A Senior Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator may be assigned responsibility for one or more specialized areas of plant operations, such as the Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Program, the plant and/or equipment maintenance programs, specialized mechanical repairs, and/or the safety program. Senior Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators are required to actively participate in the Plant Monitoring System that provides round-the-clock coverage for emergency situations and alarms. The work is performed under the general supervision of the Chief Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator with leeway allowed for the exercise of independent judgment in planning and carrying out the details of the work. Supervision is exercised over the work of operators, trainees and maintenance personnel. Does related work as required.

SCOPE OF THE EXAMINATION: A written test designed to evaluate knowledge, skills and /or abilities in the following areas:

1. Supervision

These questions test for knowledge of the principles and practices employed in planning, organizing, and controlling the activities of a work unit toward predetermined objectives. The concepts covered, usually in a situational question format, include such topics as assigning and reviewing work; evaluating performance; maintaining work standards; motivating and developing subordinates; implementing procedural change; increasing efficiency; and dealing with problems of absenteeism, morale, and discipline.

2. Operation and maintenance of pumps, valves, and related mechanical and electrical equipment

These questions test for knowledge of the principles and procedures involved in the operation, maintenance, and repair of pumps, valves, and related mechanical and electrical equipment, including motors and electric circuitry; and for the ability to identify various types of pumps, valves, and related equipment and understand their functions.

3. Physics, chemistry, and bacteriology related to wastewater treatment and disposal, including laboratory and field tests for plant operations

These questions test for knowledge of the principles and practices of wastewater treatment, disposal, and testing, including such areas as the principles of physics, chemistry, and bacteriology involved; terminology associated with wastewater treatment and testing; operating principles of the equipment and procedures used in wastewater treatment; measurements and measuring devices used; sampling and testing wastewater and interpreting the results; and identification and characteristics of chemicals and bacteria involved in wastewater plant operations and testing. Some questions may involve basic arithmetic calculations.

4. Practices and equipment used in the operation and maintenance of a Type A wastewater treatment plant

These questions test for knowledge of the principles and practices associated with the operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment plants employing the activated sludge process or its modifications (Type A plants), including such areas as objectives of plant processes, techniques, and equipment; terminology associated with Type A wastewater treatment plants; conditions and situations encountered in Type A wastewater treatment plants; plant safety and monitoring; and equipment and materials used in Type A wastewater treatment plants. Some questions may involve basic arithmetic calculations.

5. Tools, mechanical aptitude, and reading of scales, meters, and gauges

These questions test for knowledge of the tools used in water and wastewater treatment plants; the ability to identify various types of tools and their uses; knowledge of general mechanical principles and the operation of various types of mechanical devices such as gears, pulleys, levers, valves, and similar types of mechanical equipment; and the ability to read and interpret information displayed on various types of scales, meters, and gauges.

The New York State Department of Civil Service has not prepared a test guide for this examination. However, candidates may find information in the publication "How to take a written test" helpful in preparing for this test. This publication is available online at: <https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>.

NOTE: Most Civil Service examinations do not require the use of a quiet, hand-held calculator or slide rule; however, candidates have the option of bringing a battery-operated or solar-powered calculator to the test room unless specifically notified that their use is prohibited. Devices with typewriter keyboards, spell checkers, Personal Digital Assistants, Address Books, Language Translators, Dictionaries, or any similar devices are prohibited. **USE OF CALCULATORS IS ALLOWED FOR THIS EXAM.**

SENIORITY POINTS: Seniority points will be added to the grades of candidates who receive a passing score of 70 or higher. Seniority points will be computed in accordance with the following schedule:

LENGTH OF SERVICE

SENIORITY POINTS

Less than 1 year	0 points
1 year up to 6 years	1 point
Over 6 years up to 11 years	2 points
Over 11 years up to 16 years	3 points
Over 16 years up to 21 years	4 points
Over 21 years up to 26 years	5 points

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION - CANDIDATES WITH DISABILITIES - MILITARY MEMBERS:

_____ Applicants whose religious beliefs or military service prevent their taking examinations on the scheduled date and candidates with disabilities who require special accommodations to take

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the test should indicate the need for special arrangements on their application. Candidates who are called to military service after filing an application should send requests for an alternate test date to the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department before the test date.

_____ Military Service Members: If you apply for an examination during the filing period but are on active military duty on the date the examination is scheduled, you may request a military makeup examination. Contact the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department for more information. If you are on active duty or discharged after the filing period has begun, you may apply for the examination up to ten days before the test date.

SECTION 23.2 STATEMENT: This examination will be prepared and rated in accordance with Section 23(2) of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of New York State Civil Service Law, Rules and Regulations dealing with the preparation and rating of examinations will apply to this examination.

APPLICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED: at the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department - 108 East Green Street - Ithaca NY 14850. You may also apply online or download an application at <https://ithaca-portal.mycivilservice.com>.

TIME AND PLACE OF THE EXAMINATION: Approved candidates will be notified by mail regarding the time and place of the examination. If notice of approval or disapproval is not received three (3) days prior to the exam date, please call the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department at (607) 274-6539.

MULTIPLE EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY: If you have applied to take a written test announced by either one or several local jurisdictions (county, town, city) scheduled to be held on the same test date as this written test, you must notify each of the local jurisdictions no later than two weeks before the test date, so they can make arrangements for taking all tests at one test site. All examinations for positions in State government will be held at a State examination center.

VETERAN'S CREDIT: Veterans or disabled veterans who are eligible for additional credit must submit an application for veteran's credit with their application for examination or at any time between the dates of their application for examination and the date of the establishment of the resulting eligible list. Applications for veteran's credit are available from this office. Veteran's credits can only be added to a passing score on the examination.

Effective January 1, 1998, the State Constitution was amended to permit a candidate currently in the armed forces to apply for and be conditionally granted veteran's credit in examinations. Any candidate who applies for such credit must provide proof of military status to receive the conditional credit. No credit may be granted after the establishment of the list. It is the responsibility of the candidate to provide appropriate documentary proof indicating that the service was in time of war, as defined in Section 85 of Civil Service Law, and that the candidate received an honorable discharge or was released under honorable conditions in order to be certified at a score including veteran's credits.

ADDITIONAL CREDIT FOR CHILDREN OF FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY: In conformance with section 85-a of the Civil Service Law, children of

firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty shall be entitled to receive an additional ten points in a competitive examination for original appointment in the same municipality in which his or her parent has served. If you are qualified to participate in this examination and are a child of a firefighter or police officer killed in the line of duty in this municipality, please inform this office of this matter when you submit your application for examination. A candidate claiming such credit has a minimum of two months from the application deadline to provide the necessary documentation to verify additional credit eligibility. However, no credit may be added after the eligible list has been established.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

1. Falsification of any part of the "Application for Employment" will result in disqualification.
2. Applicants must answer every question on the application form and make sure that the application is complete in all respects. Incomplete applications will be disapproved.
3. Candidates who wish to take more than one examination must complete the "Application for Employment" for each examination. If you are cross-filing for another examination to be held on the same date, please indicate this on the application and specify the examination title and number, and the jurisdiction offering the other examination.
4. Appointments from an eligible list must be made from the top three candidates willing to accept appointment. The duration of an eligible list may be fixed for a minimum period of one (1) year and a maximum period of four (4) years.
5. It is the responsibility of the candidate to notify, in writing, the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department -108 East Green Street - Ithaca, NY 14850 of any change in address. No attempt will be made to locate candidates who have moved.

Issued by: City of Ithaca Civil Service Commission
December 10, 2018

THE CITY OF ITHACA
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER WITH A COMMITMENT TO WORKFORCE DIVERSIFICATION