



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



**BUREAU OF CLEAN WATER**

# **Responsibilities of Clean Water Professionals**

**Meeting the challenges, duties and responsibilities of the job in today's world.**

**DEP Course Number: 7122**

**3.5 Contact Hours**



# Course Objectives

- Identify and apply the 8 suggested Best Practices
- Identify tools to help maintain your system
- Identify applicable laws, rules, regulations
- Describe the importance of good communication
- Identify misconduct and describe the consequences
- Identify security measures for your system

# It's more than just a job.....

As a **water/wastewater operator**, you are a **water professional** in an occupation that requires education, training, experience, and attainment of State Certification to practice. In this **profession**, operators are **responsible** for, and must be **dedicated** to, the **protection** of **public** health and the **environment**. Operators must act **skillfully** and **conscientiously** in a **timely** fashion. Operators have a **direct impact** on our **environmental and public health**, the **preservation** and **protection** of which affects the **quality of life** and **safety** of **all** Pennsylvanians and visitors.

# ➤ It's more than just a job...A bit of clarity

**water/wastewater  
operator  
water professional  
Profession  
responsible  
dedicated  
protection of public  
protection of environment**

**skillful  
conscientious  
timely  
direct impact  
environmental and  
public health  
preservation protection  
quality of life  
safety**

# Best Practice #1

- Accept and carry out the responsibilities and rewards of being a water professional. Hold paramount the protection of public health, environmental health, and your system infrastructure.

## Best Practice #2

- Protect, maintain and use wisely the resources and funds allocated to you in the operation and maintenance of your system by board members and your customers. Manage your system assets in a fashion that promotes sustainable infrastructure. Meet all regulatory requirements in the most cost-effective manner possible. Keep the system owners and customers apprised of the condition of your system at all times. Communicate needs or problems to the system owners regularly.

## Best Practice #3

- Become familiar with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and permits as issued and enforced by state and federal regulatory authorities. Understand the consequences of violations caused by inaction, negligence, or wilful misconduct.

## Best Practice #4

- Abide by all applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations and permits. Notify regulatory authorities and system owners of any real or potential problems that may result in non-compliance. Maintain all required records and report accurately in a timely fashion. Be objective and truthful in data collection and reporting. Acknowledge errors and refrain from distorting or altering the facts.



## Best Practice #5

- Carry out duties in a safe, secure, and responsible fashion. Understand the dangers and risks of working in a water/wastewater system. Maintain a safe and secure environment for all system workers, visitors, and the public. Preservation and protection of your human assets and infrastructure is paramount.

# Best Practice #6

- Attend continuing education sessions and associate with other water professionals to continually enhance your education and knowledge of water/wastewater system operations. Share your knowledge and experiences with others to promote the expansion of knowledge in this profession. Participate in professional associations and organizations to exchange knowledge and valuable information. These associations frequently offer workshops, meetings, and conferences. Work with subordinates and others in your organization and in the profession to pass on institutional knowledge that may otherwise be lost.

## Best Practice #7

- Work with your customers and the general public to increase their knowledge of the importance of protecting and maintaining clean water. Let them know what they can do to protect and conserve water in their daily activities and protect the assets of your system.

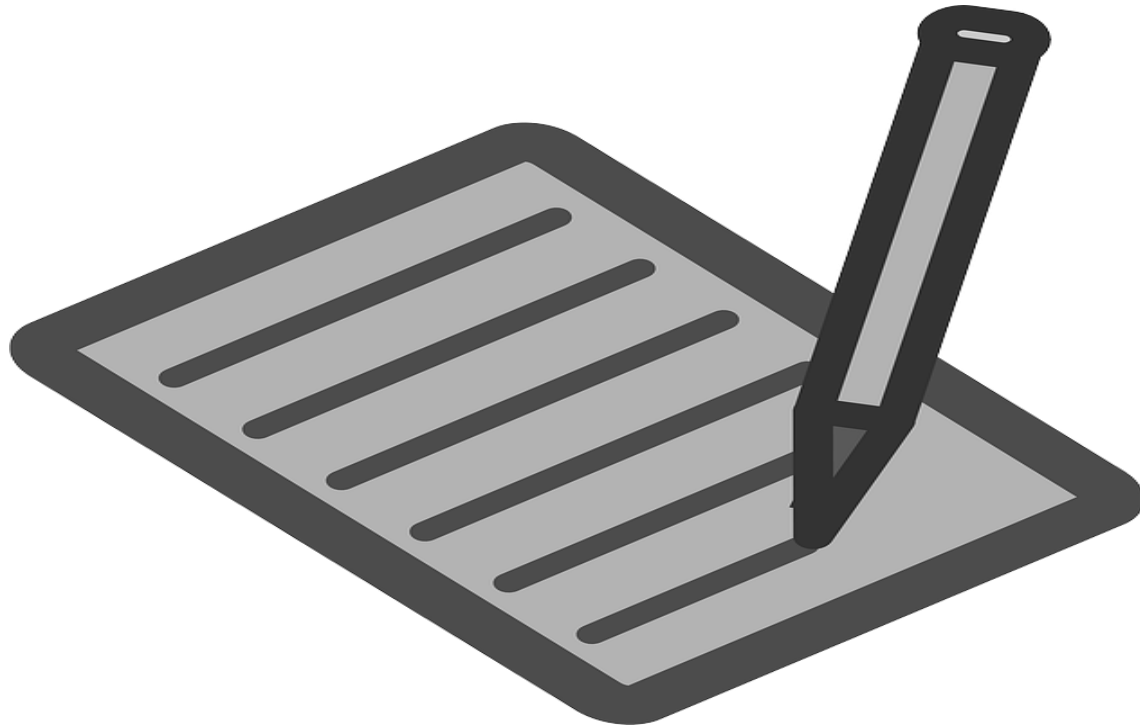
## Best Practice #8

- Avoid unprofessional practices and act honorably, responsibly, ethically, respectfully, and lawfully so as to enhance the reputation of the profession.

# Discussion??



# ▶ Example of Sample Job Description





**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



**BUREAU OF CLEAN WATER**

## **Robert M. DiGilarmo**

Environmental Group Manager, Operations  
PA Department of Environmental Protection

Bureau of Clean Water

400 Market Street, PO Box 8774

Harrisburg, PA 17105-8774

P: 717.783.7416 | F: 717.772.5156

[rdigilarmo@pa.gov](mailto:rdigilarmo@pa.gov)