

SKILLS TRANSFERABILITY

Driller to Wastewater Collector

Are you an oil & gas well drilling worker?
Are you looking for a new employment opportunity?

You have skills and experience that can provide a jumping-off point to a career in water and wastewater collection and treatment.

Take a look at the information below to see how you could leverage your skills and, with some additional training, transition into this growing occupation.



Oil and gas well drilling worker

Wastewater collection operator and technician

OVERVIEW

Oil and gas well drilling workers are intermediate members of a rig crew who operate drilling and service rig machinery. They are employed by drilling contractors and by petroleum producing companies. These jobs are often seasonal, with long hours during the drilling season.

Wastewater collection operators are responsible for skilled tasks in the construction, maintenance, and repair of wastewater system facilities. Wastewater technicians work on storage and storm sewer systems, specifically piping, pumping, and lift stations (this occupation requires certifications). These jobs are often full-time, full-year unionized jobs.



Oil and gas well drilling worker

Wastewater collection operator and technician

EXAMPLE JOB TITLES

- Derrick Worker
- Motorhand
- Rig Technician

- Water/Sewer Technician
- Water and Wastewater Technician
- Environmental Systems Operator – Water Treatment
- Process Operator, Liquid Waste
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Completion of secondary school
- Rig technician certification may be required by some employers

- Completion of secondary school
- Certification in wastewater collection and wastewater treatment is required for wastewater treatment plant operators ([Job Bank](#))

EARNINGS

Across Canada, average earnings for *Oil and gas well drilling and related workers and services operators* range from:

\$19.87 to \$40.00
per hour ([Job Bank](#))



Across Canada, average earnings for *Water and waste treatment plant operators* range from:

\$19.23 to \$38.00
per hour ([Job Bank](#))

INDUSTRIES

- Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction

- Public Administration
- Construction
- Utilities

NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

NOC 8412: *Oil and gas well drilling and related workers and services operators*

NOC 9243: *Water and waste treatment plant operators*

Transferable Skills



Both oil and gas well drilling workers and wastewater collection operators and technicians:

- apply mechanical problem solving and troubleshooting to maintain equipment
- replace machines and resolve equipment malfunctions
- are responsible for meeting Occupational Health and Safety Regulations

Skills Gap



Wastewater collection operators also:

- maintain adequate inventory of spare parts
- determine requirements for corrective maintenance
- monitor liquid level control system

Wastewater treatment technicians also:

- use testing equipment in wastewater
- maintain specified water characteristics
- maintain desalination control system
- handle treatment chemicals and conduct chemical dosing
- monitor water quality
- determine pump efficiency and drawdowns



Additional training is highly recommended for drilling machine operators seeking to become wastewater collection operators and technicians:

Examples of one-year programs:

- <https://www.tru.ca/trades/trades-programs/water.html>
- <https://www.epictraining.ca/course-catalogue/municipal/11658/wastewater-collection-1-and-2>
- https://www.northernlakescollege.ca/programs-courses/continuing-education/program/water-wastewater-operator#_
- <https://www.sait.ca/programs-and-courses/certificates/water-and-wastewater-treatment-operations>

Examples of multi-year programs:

- <https://flemingcollege.ca/continuing-education/certificates/water-operator-and-wastewater-operator-training>
- <https://www.tru.ca/trades/trades-programs/water.html>
- <https://www.nait.ca/coned/water-wastewater-tech-distribution?overviewtabs=program-overview>
- <https://saskpolytech.ca/programs-and-courses/programs/Water-and-Wastewater-Technician.aspx>


Employment Outlook

**Approximately
9,000 job openings**

are forecasted for *Utilities equipment operators and controllers* over the period 2022-2028 (Canadian Occupational Projection System).

The employment outlook for *Water and waste treatment plant operators* for the 2019-2021 period is **GOOD** in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Quebec and New Brunswick and **FAIR** in Alberta, Ontario, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador ([Job Bank](#)).

Certification is required for wastewater treatment plant operators. For more information on provincial requirements:

-  **BC** <https://eocp.ca/certified-operators/how-to-become-an-operator/>
-  **AB** http://www.abccert.org/abc_certification_program/operator_certification.asp
-  **SK** <https://saskocb.ca/certification/>
-  **MB** <https://www.gov.mb.ca/wd/apprenticeship/discover/mbrades/waterwastewatertech.html>
-  **ON** <https://www.ontario.ca/page/licensing-guide-wastewater-operators>
-  **NS** <https://novascotia.ca/nse/water.operator.certification/>
-  **PE** www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/environment-water-and-climate-change/obtaining-water-and-wastewater-operator-certificate
-  **NT** <https://www.maca.gov.nt.ca/en/services/drinking-water-nwt/operator-certification-and-training>



Do you want to learn more about wastewater collection operators and technicians?

- **ECO Canada's career profile:** <https://www.eco.ca/training/career-profiles/wastewater-collection-and-treatment-operator/>
- **2005 National Occupational Guidelines for Canadian Water and Wastewater Operators:** <https://www.eco.ca/research/report/national-occupational-guidelines-2005/>
- **The Canadian Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA):** <https://cwwa.ca/memberships/>
- **BC Water & Waste Association:** <https://www.bcwwa.org/>
- **Alberta Water & Waste Operators Association:** <https://www.awwoa.ca/>
- **Manitoba Water & Wastewater Association:** <https://www.mwwa.net/>
- **Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association:** <https://www.oowa.org/>
- **Réseau Environnement/The Environmental Network (Quebec):** <https://www.reseau-environnement.com/>
- **La fondation rivières/The Rivers Foundation (Quebec):** <https://fondationrivers.org/>



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