

Pataskala Utilities Department

EPA Licensed Operators



Water and Wastewater treatment is a process that is often taken for granted. Living in the region of the world in which we do allows us the luxury of assuming that clean drinking water and properly treated wastewater is something that just happens without fail. This “out of sight, out of mind” approach is partly due to the fact that the professionals in the industry perform their jobs at such a high level. Clean water and clean wastewater is reliable 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It’s easy to forget all that goes into something that seems to be automatic. The intent of this informational post is to explain the amount of training and certifications that the professional operators at the Pataskala Utility Department maintain while they accomplish our mission of “Clean Water In, Clean Water Out”.

The EPA classifies water and wastewater treatment plants based on their size and the treatment process used. The City of Pataskala operates two Class 1 water treatment plants and one Class 3 water reclamation facility. In order to meet the EPA requirements on operating those plants, the City is required to have an employee with a certification level equal to the classification of the plant. The Utility Department currently has 5 employees with certifications high enough to operate the water plants and 2 employees with certifications high enough to operate the wastewater plant. The Utility Department puts a huge emphasis on EPA certifications and encourages its employees to pursue the highest level of certification that they can. This allows for backup coverage options, but also provides for a well-educated work force, which results in a better finished product for our customers.

You can’t really appreciate how special these certifications are without knowing what they involve. The subjects include, but are not limited to, withdrawing water from an underground aquifer, filtration principles on a microscopic level, the chemistry of water softening and disinfection, the physics of water hydraulics, EPA reporting requirements, contamination limits calculated in parts per million, pipeline capacities, pumping rates against head pressure, the biology of microscopic organisms and how to ensure that those organisms remove the harmful contaminants in wastewater, and the physical properties involved with coagulation, flocculation and sedimentation. Obviously, these subjects are in depth and can be quite complicated. Each level of certification is preceded by an educational course that lasts 16 weeks to adequately cover this material.



So please remember, there is a large amount of dedication and professionalism that goes into the water and wastewater treatment processes. The City of Pataskala Utility Department is full of people who have that dedication and professionalism. I am proud to work with them on a daily basis. They have the brains of a scientist with a blue collar work ethic. As a result, they will do whatever is necessary to keep your water and wastewater clean and flowing.

We are happy to answer any questions at: Utilities Department, 430 South Main St, 740-964-6275

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“Clean Water In, Clean Water Out”