



JOB DESCRIPTION FORM

Division/Department	Operations - Hydro
Location	Columbus Powerhouse
Job Title	Plant Operator – Columbus (Hydro Electric Plant Operator)
Reports to	Powerhouse Maint. Supr'v/Hydro Superintendent

Level/Grade 13H Type of position: Hours 40 - 48 / week

Job Code 02 Full-time Exempt
 Part-time Nonexempt

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The primary purpose of the Plant Operator position is to monitor the operation of the two hydro electric plants to ensure that power is generated with the most efficient use of water using safe operating practices at all times. The primary responsibility includes constant, close monitoring of the SCADA system and make voltage changes or switching adjustments, either routine or emergency, as needed. The Operator also ensures that the hydro system is operating in compliance with the FERC License and the premises are well secured at all times.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- High school degree or equivalent education
- Certified switching able to switch up to 115kv, or the ability to be certified
- Basic computer skills; Microsoft Office and Outlook
- Maintain a valid Nebraska driver's license and company vehicle insurability

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS

- Monitor and record water levels and water flows to ensure integrity of canal system and compliance with FERC license restrictions
- Dispatch crews and equipment during occasional power outages
- Field and respond to calls from the public; including but not limited to emergencies, payment, and reconnect
- Monitor the SCADA system on 24/7 basis and make system adjustments as needed
- Closely monitor water levels at all times to ensure appropriate water levels and proper operating conditions are maintained
- Monitor diversion levels and notify Headworks of any necessary adjustments
- Maintain currency and accuracy of all hourly readings, record keeping and documentation on station log and in operating journal
- Produce accurate schedules for generation contracted to energy market
- Communicate regularly with NPPD Energy and Transmission Control Center to maintain integrity of the generation units, transmission system, and substation entrance
- Collaborate with all department crews to handle or alert with generator problems, substation equipment failures, problems that could affect common power-related situations and other similar emergencies
- Inspect and observe all equipment and machines to ensure first-class working condition
- Read and interpret substation diagrams and pin maps
- Ensure compliance with and adherence to FERC Emergency Action Plan
- Assist in installing new technical equipment as necessary

NON-ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS

- Assist maintenance personnel as needed
- Record weather data
- Maintain cleanliness and order in the control room and surrounding work areas
- Attend all safety meetings and serve on committees as requested

WORK ENVIRONMENT

- Natural work hazards associated with working with high voltage, in and around fluctuating water, aerial heights, chemical usage and some work around large crane areas
- Regular work-hour schedules of long, rotating shifts
- High confidentiality with sensitive work situations and with customer information
- Occasional time pressures, changes in priorities of duties primarily due to power outage or equipment failures as well as weather-related storms
- Tedium associated with constant need to record detailed information without fail
- High proficiency needed with large equipment and machines, e.g., generating units, computers, and business office machines, various communication devices
- Strong collaboration skills needed to work well with numerous people, especially on common problems affecting a large number of people
- Strong interpersonal communication skills needed to conduct on-the-job training of new plant operators
- Autonomous and independent problem solving and decision making skills needed when addressing atypical plant situations that require a timely resolution
- Specialized technical knowledge needed to work with a large number of complex machinery and equipment
- High degree of accuracy and focused concentration with detail work and record keeping on a continual basis

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY REQUIRED

LIFTING	Never	Occ	Freq	Cont
10 lbs			x	
11-15 lbs			x	
26-50 lbs		x		
51-75 lbs		x		
76-100 lbs		x		
+100 lbs	x	x		

SEEING	Never	Occ	Freq	Cont
Near Vision			x	
Far Vision		x		
Color Vision			x	

VERBAL COMMUNICATION	Never	Occ	Freq	Cont
			x	

REACHING	Never	Occ	Freq	Cont
Out			x	
Overhead		x		
Low (below knees)		x		

CLIMBING	Never	Occ	Freq	Cont
Stairs			x	
Ladder			x	
Other		x		

AGILITY	Never	Occ	Freq	Cont
Balancing			x	
Bending Over		x		
Carrying		x		
Crawling		x		
Eye/Hand/Foot Coordination			x	
Grasping			x	
Kneeling		x		
Pulling		x		
Pushing		x		
Sitting			x	
Standing			x	

REVIEWED BY DAN HELLBUSCH *Title* V.P. OF OPERATIONS

APPROVED BY NEAL SUESS *Title* PRESIDENT/CEO

DATE APPROVED AUGUST 6, 2008

REVISED DATE 2/2/2022, 7/27/18, 9/29/15, 7/1/2010