

MERCED IRRIGATION DISTRICT
POWERHOUSE TECHNICIAN / ASSISTANT POWERHOUSE TECHNICIAN

FLSA STATUS – Non-Exempt
Bargaining Unit – IBEW, Local 1245
Classification Level – Per IBEW Wage Schedule

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, assist in operation & maintenance of hydroelectric plants, switchyards, dams, and all project property. Perform related work as required.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE ASSISTANT POWERHOUSE TECHNICIAN POSITION:

- Perform semi-skilled power plant maintenance and operation work.
- Follow written switching orders in blocking Hydro generating unit and associated equipment to allow work to be safely performed on equipment.
- Assist in the maintenance of electrical and mechanical equipment located around high voltages, up to 115,000 volts.
- Work on or downstream of Hydro valves under pressure of over 200 psi.
- Inspect and maintain plant equipment and facilities.
- Perform all routine plant maintenance tasks, troubleshoot systems utilizing blueprints, electrical diagrams and hardware components.
- Operate heavy equipment and perform rigging operations as assigned in a safe manner.
- Conduct preventative maintenance as scheduled and perform tasks that require welding, carpentry, support equipment repair and other similar needs of this remote job site.
- Write reports, prepare and maintain records.
- Perform other related duties as required or assigned by Supervisor.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE POWERHOUSE TECHNICIAN POSITION:

- All essential functions of the Assistant Powerhouse Technician.
- Perform skilled power plant maintenance and operation work.
- Operate the plant, making operating adjustments including startup or shutdown as appropriate.
- Operate heavy equipment and perform rigging operations as assigned in a safe manner.
- Collect operational data and produce routine reports, including those for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).
- Routine after hours on-call duty requiring response to afterhours emergency callouts, once proficiency in Powerhouse operations is established and training is complete.
- Perform other related duties as required or assigned by Supervisor.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of:

- The principals of operating a hydro-electric powerhouse.
- Basic electricity, AC & DC circuits and AC & DC machines.
- Methods, materials, equipment and tools used in the maintenance and operation of power plant facilities; basic electricity, mechanical and hydraulic principles
- Policies and procedures with respect to powerhouse operation.
- Recordkeeping and reporting procedures.
- Hazards and safety precautions along with safe work practices.
- Basic methods, tools, techniques and materials used in the construction, maintenance, repair and cleaning of hydro-electric facility.
 - Basic math calculations.
 - Pertinent Federal, State and Local laws, codes and regulations.

Ability to:

- Work without direct supervision.
- Understand and follow oral and written instructions.
- Ability to use technical manuals; electrical, mechanical and civil blueprints; electrical test equipment; computerized analysis equipment; power and hand tools.
- Ability to read and interpret plans and specifications; electrical, mechanical, hydraulic and civil drawings.
- Communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.
- Interpret, explain and enforce departmental and District policies and procedures.
- Follow all applicable safety rules and regulations of Merced Irrigation District.
- Operate District vehicles in a safe manner.
- Understand and carry out oral and written directions.
- Communicate clearly and concisely, orally and in writing.
- Establish and maintain cooperative relationships with those in the course of work.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Possession of an appropriate valid California Driver's License.
- Must take and pass Assistant Powerhouse Technician Test, prior to appointment.
- A Department of Motor Vehicles "Driver Record Information" print-out will be required at time of hire. Must be enrolled in District's DMV pull-notice program.
- Assistant Powerhouse Technician may be required to reside in MID housing at Exchequer Dam and will be subject to call out for any powerhouse related problems under direct supervision of a Powerhouse Technician.
- Powerhouse Technician will be required to reside in MID housing at Exchequer Dam when on-call duty and will be subject to call out for any powerhouse related problems.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**EDUCATION**

Any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from high school, including classes in algebra and trigonometry plus classes in basic electricity, AC & DC Circuits and AC & DC Machines. These classes may be by correspondence schools or by local adult classes; must demonstrate the ability to pass a written test pertaining to the above subjects.

EXPERIENCE

- One (1) to three (3) years' experience in an industrial, mechanical setting.

QUALIFICATIONS – POWERHOUSE TECHNICIAN

- Three (3) years' experience in a power plant operation.
- Take and pass required Powerhouse Operator training.

TYPICAL PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

The physical and mental demands described herein are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of the job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions:

- Must be able to carry, push, pull, reach and lift equipment and parts weighing up to 50 pounds in accordance with safe working practices.
- Stoops, crawls, and climbs while performing work duties.
- Works in an environment with exposure to dust, dirt, and significant temperature changes between cold and heat.

- Climb ladders, climb steel structures, have dexterity to climb in and out of and work in close quarters. Have the ability to work at heights, walk in steep or uneven terrain and work outside in all kinds of weather.
- Operates District vehicles in delivering items and for travel between projects. Travels frequently by motor vehicle in the conduct of District business.
- Communicates orally with District employees and the public in face-to-face, one-on-one and group settings.
- Regularly uses a telephone and radio for communication.
- Uses office equipment such as computer terminal, copiers and FAX.
- Stand, or walk for extended periods of time.
- Hearing and vision within normal limits when corrected.

Sitting: Remains in a seated position for up to eight (8) hours per day
 Standing: Remains in a standing position for up to eight (8) hours per day.
 Hands/Arms: Operates vehicles and completes mechanical operations for up to eight (8) hours per day
 Lifting: Raises and lowers supplies and equipment up to fifty (50) pounds.
 Stooping: Bends body downward and forward by bending at the knees or waist
 Talking: Expresses ideas and shares information by means of spoken work in person and by telephone.
 Hearing: Hears well enough to receive communications in person and by telephone.
 Vision: Operates vehicles and office equipment.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:

- Exposure to the sun: 50% or less work time spent outside a building and exposed to the sun.
- Some work performed in an outside environment with exposure to dust, dirt and significant temperature changes between heat and cold.

ESSENTIAL MENTAL ABILITIES:

- Exercise independent judgment.
- Self-directing and organized.
- Reason objectively.
- Assess, project and plan work activities on a daily and weekly basis.
- Document concisely, accurately and timely.