



Job Summary

The Water Operator, reporting to the Superintendent, is responsible for the distribution of water to farmers and other water users, ensuring that water is conveyed in a timely manner. During the irrigation season, the Water Operator is required to be on call 24/7, as water delivery operates seven days a week and system issues may arise during evenings and weekends.

Key Responsibilities

- Prior to the irrigation season, complete pre-season preparations, including inspecting canals and drains for damage following winter and spring runoff; flushing canals to remove weeds and debris as required; inspecting and testing sweepers, automatic gates, and pump stations; adjusting check structures to the appropriate height for pipeline charging; ensuring pipelines are ready for operation (including confirming drain-outs are closed, air vacs are open, and valves are properly set); and verifying water levels and flow conditions in canals.
- Conduct ongoing inspections to assess channel effectiveness and the serviceability of control structures, culverts, and bridges within assigned area of the District; regularly monitor sweepers, automatic gates, flow meters, and pump stations to ensure proper operation; inspect canals and drains for issues such as wildlife activity, washouts, weeds, algae, and debris; and perform minor maintenance and repairs to canals, banks, and related structures during the operating season.
- Receive water delivery or cancellation orders from water users/landowners; manage water orders and shutoffs by increasing/decreasing water flows as necessary; keep track of reservoir level where necessary.
- Maintain accurate, up-to-date, and confidential records of water deliveries and cancellations, and submit records/information to the District's Irrigation Recording & Management App (IRMA) of deliveries and cancellations, along with canal and pipeline flows and lake levels.
- Maintain regular communication with water users regarding various issues (e.g. creating efficiencies by rotating water amongst water users/landowners, and ensuring water is being used appropriately and within the policies and regulations of the EID Board of Directors and provincial legislation).
- Maintain regular communication with the Divisional Superintendent and Senior Water Operator regarding various issues (e.g. required repairs, problems or conflicts with landowners, or new/other land being brought under irrigation).
- Maintain communication with other Water Operators regarding various issues (e.g. necessary water sharing, and providing coverage or support during emergencies, illness, vacation, or other absences).
- Maintain communication with Land Administrator – Assessment, Water & Lands regarding changes in irrigation method, illegal irrigation, or questions with respect to irrigation assessments.

- Relate to, and communicate with co-workers, supervisors, management, and others, sincerely, clearly, tactfully, promptly, and courteously; respond to inquiries and issues promptly and professionally.
- During October, participate in various tasks associated with water shutdown (e.g. open drain outs, pump out pipelines, shutoff sweepers and drain pumps, automatic gates, and check canals and drains for any damage).
- Operate light-duty construction equipment when necessary.
- Participate in maintenance projects (e.g. pipeline leaks, pump breakdowns, and valve replacements) in conjunction with other Water Operators, Maintenance Foreman, Electrician, and Millwright.
- Ensure proper signage is in place around structures and pipeline road crossings.
- Adhere to and comply with Eastern Irrigation District Health and Safety Management systems and all District policies, procedures, and programs in effect, and as amended from time to time.
- Ensure all operations are performed in a safe manner and in accordance with the District Health and Safety Management system program and District policies, procedures, and programs in effect, and as amended from time to time, as well as applicable Occupational Health and Safety Act legislation including,
 - participating in FLHA safety tailgate meetings, on the job training, safety training seminars, safely operating tools and equipment, and completing work in a safe manner.
- Ensure any required Personal Protective Equipment is on site and worn in accordance with safe job requirements.
- Adhere and comply with the District Vehicle Policy including that the District vehicle is kept clean and in proper working order and report any problems to the District Mechanic.
- Perform additional tasks, consistent with the position, as may be required from time to time.

Job Qualifications

- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Effective organizational and time-management abilities
- Self-motivated with the ability and willingness to work independently as well as productively and cooperatively in a team environment
- Basic computer knowledge
- Knowledge of irrigation farming would be an asset

- Basic construction knowledge, including the ability to read and understand construction drawings; familiarity and some experience operating light-duty construction equipment and power tools; basic mechanical aptitude; and welding experience considered an asset
- Experience in the maintenance or construction field considered an asset
- Familiarity and knowledge of the Eastern Irrigation District or the ability to read a map book
- Valid Alberta Class 5 driver's licence required
- Note: It requires approximately 2-3 years to learn the assigned area of the District

Pre-Employment Requirements

- Selected candidates will be required to undergo pre-employment background checks, including a Criminal Record Check.
- Selected candidates will be required to provide a Driver's Abstract.
- Successful applications must provide proof of qualifications.

Pre-Employment Alcohol and Drug Test

The District recognizes that the use of alcohol and drugs can adversely impact a safe work environment and the well-being of others, as well as place the District's operations at risk. This position is a safety sensitive position and, as such, any person, including any current employee, who has applied for a safety sensitive position will be required to pass a Drug and Alcohol Test as a pre-condition to employment, being transferred or being temporarily assigned into a safety sensitive position as per the District's Drug and Alcohol Policy.