



CODE OF ETHICS FOR WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATORS

Adopted by PWEA on December 10, 2015

Preamble/Overview:

As a drinking water or wastewater treatment operator, you are a clean water professional in an occupation that requires education, training, experience, and attainment of State Certification to practice. In this profession, operators must be responsible for and dedicated to the protection of public health and the environment. Operators must act skillfully and conscientiously in a timely fashion. Operators have a direct impact on our environmental and public health, the preservation and protection of which affects the quality of life and safety of all residents and visitors.

Guidelines of Practice:

Operators, in fulfillment of their professional duties should:

1. Accept and carry out the responsibilities and rewards of being a clean water professional. Hold paramount the protection of public health, environmental health and your system infrastructure.
2. Protect, maintain and use wisely the resources and funds allocated to you in the operation and maintenance of your system. Manage your system assets in a fashion that promotes sustainable infrastructure. Meet all regulatory requirements in the most cost effective manner possible. Keep the system owners and customers apprised of the condition of your system at all times. Communicate needs or problems to the system owners regularly.
3. Become familiar with all applicable laws, rules, regulations and permits as issued and enforced by state and federal regulatory authorities. Understand the consequences of violations caused by inaction, negligence or willful misconduct.
4. Abide by all applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations and permits. Notify regulatory authorities and system owners in a timely fashion of any real or potential problems that may result in non-compliance. Maintain all required records and report accurately in a timely fashion. Be objective and truthful in data collection and reporting. Acknowledge errors and not distort or alter the facts.
5. Carry out duties in a safe, secure and responsible fashion. Understand the dangers and risks of working in a water/wastewater system. Maintain a safe and secure environment for all system workers, visitors and the public. Preservation and protection of your human assets and infrastructure is paramount.
6. Associate with other clean water professionals to enhance your education and knowledge of water/wastewater system operations. Share your knowledge and experiences with others to promote the expansion of knowledge in this profession. Participation in professional associations and organizations can assist in the exchange of knowledge and valuable information. These associations frequently offer workshops, meetings and conferences. Work with subordinates and others in your organization to pass on institutional knowledge that may otherwise be lost.
7. Work with your customers and the general public to increase their knowledge of the importance of maintaining clean water. Let them know what they can do to promote clean water in their daily activities and protect the assets of your system.
8. Avoid unprofessional practices and act honorably, responsibly, ethically, respectfully and lawfully so as to enhance the reputation of the profession.