

MISSION-CRITICAL PROFILE

Name: Ted Peck

Organization: San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility



Job Category (Check one below):

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Maintenance Technician/ Instrument Technician |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Distribution | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrician/Electrical Line Worker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater Treatment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Machinist/Mechanic – Heavy Diesel Equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater Distribution | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

1. Please describe the work you do:

I am responsible for ensuring the continued operation of the Facility's cogeneration machinery and secondary process air equipment. Cogeneration at our facility is done with engine driven generators, such as the Cooper Bessemer or Enterprise large bore medium speed engines. These are the huge engines that you may see at municipal power plants or on commercial ships.

The wastewater treatment process requires the use of air for the aeration chambers. We produce that air with engine driven blowers such as Cooper Bessemer centrifugal compressors. Right now our compressors are very old. Operating and maintaining this equipment is a skill we teach on the job, you cannot learn it at school!

2. What combination of education, vocational training, apprenticeship, experience, and/or skill did you obtain in order to be qualified and selected for your job?

I graduated from high school and went to a truck mechanic's trade school. After that, I got a job in the oil fields, working on large fracturing equipment. They use large engines for the fracturing process. So, I learned how to work with, and fix the large diesel engines. That was how I was introduced to working with large engines.

3. What do you like best about your job?

I like working in the field. I like troubleshooting and repairing the machinery. Fixing a problem gives me a sense of accomplishment.

4. Please tell us about the projects and activities you have enjoyed most in your work in the water/wastewater field, and what made them rewarding,

My favorite project is retrofitting the engines to meet the cleaner exhaust emissions requirements. I have modified at least 11 engines in my time at this facility. I like doing the mechanic work and knowing that my work makes our environment safer.

Another favorite project of mine is repairing damaged blowers. I get to work independently on these types of projects and it helps a person to think and reason on their own.

5. What qualities and capabilities are needed in order for a person in your area of expertise to be successful in the water/wastewater industry?

To be successful you will need a good mechanical aptitude. Reasoning ability is important too. When posed with a problem, sometimes the answer is not readily apparent, so troubleshooting skills will come in handy. The qualities of self motivation and ownership are essential.

6. Do you have any advice for an individual who is considering pursuing a career in your field in the water/wastewater industry?

It is a given that you should finish high school. My advice is to pursue additional training in the field of mechanics. Not simply auto mechanics, but something that deals with more heavy duty equipment, such as diesel truck mechanics or marine engineering. All the jobs today seem to require computer skills. Get training in basic computer skills. On the job experience is always a good thing to have.