



UNION JOB DESCRIPTION

JD1653

JOB TITLE:	Public Health Engineer	JOB DESCRIPTION NO.:	P.Cl.44160.001
CLASSIFICATION:	Public Health Engineer P1	GRID/PAY LEVEL:	H-K-P1
COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT:	Health Science Professionals	HSCIS NO.:	66601
UNION:	PEA	JOB/CLASS CODE:	66601
PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT:	Public Health	BENCHMARKS (If Applicable):	
REPORTING TO:	Manager		
FACILITY/SITE:	Nanaimo; Victoria		

JOB SUMMARY:

In accordance with the Vision, Purpose, and Values, and strategic direction of Island Health (Vancouver Island Health Authority), patient and staff safety is a priority and a responsibility shared by everyone; as such, the requirement to continuously improve quality and safety is inherent in all aspects of this position.

Reporting to the Regional Manager, Health Protection and Environmental Services within the Island Health and working as part of an interdisciplinary team, the Public Health Engineer provides engineering expertise and advice to the Environmental Health Officers, Medical Health Officers, other agencies and the public relating to Public Health Engineering (PHE) aspects of drinking water, swimming pools, sewage disposal and other environmental issues.

The Public Health Engineer acts as an issuing official pursuant to the BC Drinking Water Protection Act and Regulation in regards to the issuance of construction permits for drinking water systems, and protects public health and safety through the application of Public Health Engineering expertise.

TYPICAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Reviews and approves construction of drinking water systems pursuant to health legislation by:
 - Reviewing and approving or rejecting plans, engineering reports and specifications submitted pursuant to health legislation to determine if proposals meet acceptable public health engineering practices and to determine if any aspect of the proposed design will result in health or safety hazards.
 - Issuing permits for construction of water treatment plants, reservoirs, disinfection stations and distribution piping as authorized in accordance with drinking water legislation.
 - Directing and monitoring private consultants, professional engineers, architects, who are experts in their field concerning their application of and compliance with policies, regulations and specifications.
 - Reviewing and approving or rejecting products, devices and materials proposed for use in water systems or swimming pools.
 - Assisting in the review and approval or rejection of source water for drinking water purposes.

2. Provides professional public health engineering support in identifying, resolving and preventing community environmental health problems by:
 - Consulting with members of the Health Protection team to identify, assess and resolve health risks, and providing risk management options relating to health issues of environmental contamination of air, water, groundwater, soils, communicable disease outbreaks, etc.

- Providing engineering support to the Health Protection team in the course of their duties through consultation and onsite inspections.
 - Assisting in the protection of water supply sources including watersheds, groundwater and surface water by participating in inter-ministry processes at the regional level.
 - Providing guidance, advice and instructions to Health Protection teams on the design, construction and operation of pools and water systems.
 - Participating in the development of plans relating to community waste management issues such as landfills, sludge disposal, air management, etc.
 - Participating in waterworks, sewage works and swimming pool operator training programs.
 - Consulting with the Health Protection team on engineering aspects of the referrals and submissions they receive.
 - Providing advice and guidance to the public on drinking water, pools, and sewage issues
3. Participates in the development of internal and external guidelines, policies and legislation related to public health engineering issues by:
- Evaluating new technology, equipment, devices and chemicals; analyzing complex data and interpreting results, etc., to determine their practical suitability and adoption for the protection of public health.
 - Developing solutions for public health engineering concerns and complex problems.
 - Participating on internal and external committees.
 - Working collaboratively with Public Health engineers in other Health authorities in regards to existing and emerging engineering standards and best practices and strive for consistency in implementation of provincial health regulations.
4. Provides internal record keeping; collects and maintains PHE records, data compilations and inventories.
5. Performs other related duties as required.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education, Training And Experience

Masters' degree in applied sciences, engineering or related field or a bachelor's degree with equivalent related experience. Registration as a Professional Engineer with the Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia (EGBC). Minimum of five years' experience, following registration, in the fields of water supply, waste disposal or environmental management or equivalent combination of education, training and experience.

Skills And Abilities

- Good working knowledge of health engineering aspects of water supply, waste disposal and swimming pools.
- Skilled in communication, both in written and verbal, self-motivated, sound in judgement, willing to work with others, reliable, tactful and well-organized.