

**The Town of Colonie Personnel Officer Announces  
Open-Competitive Civil Service Examination  
For  
WATER OR SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR (TRAINEE)  
Gr. 15  
WATER OR SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR Gr. 22**



**APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED CONTINUOUSLY**

EXAMINATION NO: WS-097

SALARY: GR.15 (TRAINEE)  
GR.22 (OPERATOR)

Entry: \$43,737  
Entry: \$57,572  
3 Year: \$61,807

APPLICATION FEE: A non-refundable processing fee for **Trainee (\$35.00) or Operator (\$50.00)** is required for this examination. Payment can be **made on-line** or by a **check or money order** only, made out to the *Town of Colonie*, and must accompany each application. As no refund will be made, you are urged to compare your qualifications carefully with the requirements for admission and file only for those examinations for which you are clearly qualified. Note exam number(s) on check or money order.

Note: A promotional examination is also being offered at this time.

RESIDENCY: Applicants must be a resident of New York State in either ALBANY, RENSSELAER, COLUMBIA, GREENE, SCHOHARIE, SCHENECTADY or SARATOGA COUNTY for at least four (4) months prior to the date of this examination. New York State Civil Service Law Section 23, Subdivision 4-A, allows the Town of Colonie to give preference in appointment to Town Residents. ***Preference may be given to applicants who are residents of the Town of Colonie, and also have their primary domicile in the Town of Colonie for at least four (4) months prior to the date of this examination.***

VACANCIES: Eligible lists will be established as a result of this examination and will be used to fill vacancies as they occur. Candidates who are successful in this examination and who have the proper grade certificate issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation or Health, will be certified for appointment at the Operator level. Other eligibles will be certified at the Trainee level and will be advanced to the journey level without further examination upon satisfactory completion of the certificate requirements.

DESCRIPTION OF POSITION: The TRAINEE positions for the Water or Sewer Treatment will be limited to two years. During these training periods appointees will undergo on-the-job training to become qualified operators. They will also be required to participate in appropriate courses of instruction during this time.

**Upon satisfactory completion of the probationary term and the receipt of the appropriate NYSDOH IIA Water Treatment Plant Operator certification or NYSDEC Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certificate 2A or above, Appointees will be promoted to Operator positions without further Civil Service Examination.**

The OPERATOR positions require performance in duties such as operating pumps, valves, motors, etc. The incumbent does maintenance work on treatment plant machinery and equipment. Possession of appropriate Certificate required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: All candidates must meet the following requirements on or before the date of written test:

**Water or Sewage Treatment Plant Operator Trainee** - Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma.

**Water Treatment Plant Operator** - Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma AND EITHER A.) Completion of not less than one (1) year of satisfactory experience as a Water Treatment Plant Operator Trainee OR B.) not less than one (1) year of satisfactory experience in the actual operation of a water treatment plant with facilities for filtration with pre-treatment or for chemical softening, or any similar process.

**Sewage Treatment Plant Operator** – Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma AND EITHER A.) completion of not less than one (1) year of satisfactory experience as a Sewage Treatment Plant Operator Trainee OR B.) not less than one (1) year in the actual operation of a wastewater treatment plant rated 2A or higher.

**OPERATOR MUST POSSESS APPLICABLE GRADE 2A OR IIA CERTIFICATE.**

**SEE “GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS”**

SUBJECT OF EXAMINATION: The written test is designed to test for knowledge, skills, and/or abilities in such areas as:

- 1) **Mechanical Aptitude:** These questions are designed to test a candidate’s ability to understand and apply basic mechanical principles to devices such as levers, pulleys, pumps, gears, and similar mechanical devices. The candidate is shown sketches of various basic mechanical devices and must answer questions about how they function;
- 2) **Safety Practices:** These questions are designed to test a candidate’s knowledge of general safety principles and practices including those involved when working with mechanical equipment, electricity, and hazardous chemical substances. Candidates are not expected to know about detailed safety procedures that may be used in water or sewage treatment plants;
- 3) **Reading of Scales and Gauges:** These questions are designed to test a candidate’s ability to read and understand various meters, scales, gauges and dials. Candidates are shown the indicators of various measuring devices and are expected to be able to read and understand the numerical value shown;
- 4) **Tools:** These questions are designed to test for a candidate’s ability to recognize commonly used hand tools and understand their uses. The candidate may be shown a picture of a particular tool and asked to identify it, or asked a question concerning the proper use for a particular tool;
- 5) **Basic Mathematics:** These questions are designed to test a candidate’s ability to use the four basic arithmetic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). The candidate may be asked questions concerning percentages, decimals and fractions. The candidate may also be asked to solve simple practical mathematical problems by reading a problem and then applying the appropriate arithmetic operation to solve the problem;
- 6) **Understanding and Interpreting Written Material:** These questions are designed to test a candidate’s ability to read and understand a selection of written material. The candidate is presented with a reading selection of one or more short paragraphs. The candidate must then answer questions based on the information in the paragraph(s);
- 7) **Elementary Chemistry and General Science:** These questions are designed to test a candidate’s knowledge of basic principles of chemistry and general science. The candidate may be asked questions concerning simple chemical processes, compounds or elements including chemical processes found in living organisms such as bacteria, algae, etc. The candidate may also be asked questions concerning simple physical properties of processes, including such basic physical properties as light, heat, electricity, magnetism and pressure.

NOTE: A Guide to the Written Test for Water & Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator/Trainee Series is available at the NYS Dept. of Civil Service web site: [www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm](http://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm). Candidates not

having access to a computer or the internet may request a copy of this test guide from our office using the contact information found elsewhere on this announcement.

ELIGIBLE LIST: Successful candidates will have their names placed on the eligible list for one year only.

THE PERSONNEL OFFICER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO TERMINATE THIS CONTINUOUS RE-CRUITMENT PROGRAM AND RE-ESTABLISH THE PERIODIC, ANNOUNCED-DATE TYPE OF EXAMINATION.

HOW TO APPLY: Applications and additional information may be obtained at the Civil Service Office, Colonie Memorial Town Hall, 534 Loudon Road, Latham, NY 12110 – Telephone (518) 783-2721 OR via the Internet at [www.colonie.org](http://www.colonie.org) (Civil Service Dept) where applications can be viewed, downloaded and completed from the web site.

SPECIAL NOTE: This written examination is being prepared and rated by the New York State Department of Civil Service in accordance with Section 23-2 of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Rules and Regulations dealing with the rating of examinations will apply to this written test.

Special Note for Water Treatment Plant Operator and Operator Trainee: At time of appointment, candidates must possess a valid New York State Class D Driver's License and must maintain this license during employment.

Special Note for Sewage Treatment Plant Operator and Operator Trainee: At the time of appointment, candidates must possess a valid New York State Commercial Driver's License permit. Prior to completion of the probationary period, incumbents must possess a Commercial Driver's License, Class B with tank endorsements and must maintain this license during employment.

Victor Oberting III  
Personnel Officer  
Town of Colonie  
May 8, 2024

AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

**Fees:** Refer to the examination announcement for the required application processing fee. The required fee must accompany your application. Fees may be paid on line by credit card or enclose a non-refundable check or money order (no cash) made payable to the "Town of Colonie" and write the examination number(s) on your check or money order. In the event you are disqualified, decide you didn't want to apply for that test, you do not take the test(s), or are not successful on the examination, the fee is non-refundable and therefore will not be returned. **YOU ARE URGED TO COMPARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS CAREFULLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION AND FILE ONLY FOR THOSE EXAMINATIONS FOR WHICH YOU ARE CLEARLY QUALIFIED.**

**APPLICATION FEE WAIVER:** A waiver of application fee will be allowed if you are *unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of a household*. In addition, a waiver of application fee will be allowed if you are determined eligible for *Medicaid*, or receiving *Supplemental Security Income payments*, or *Public Assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Family Assistance or Safety Net Assistance)* or are certified *Job Training Partnership Act/Workforce Investment Act eligible* through a State or local social service agency. **All claims for application fee waiver are subject to verification. If you can verify eligibility for application fee waiver, complete a "Request for Application Fee Waiver and Certification form" (in our office or on-line at [www.colonie.org/civilservice](http://www.colonie.org/civilservice)) and submit it with your application by the close of business on the application deadline as listed on the examination announcement.** (Such claims are subject to later verification and if not supported by appropriate documentation, are grounds for barring appointment.)

**PARTIAL FEE WAIVER:** Incumbent permanent Town of Colonie employees with more than one full year, or equivalent part-time service, may request waiver of the fee except for \$5.00 (five dollars). **Provisional employees are required to pay the complete fee.**

- 1) Unless otherwise indicated on this announcement, the candidate will complete one application for employment for each examination he/she wishes to take.
- 2) Applicants must answer every question on the application form relevant to the examination or position. Applications lacking required information will be disapproved. Please follow instructions for applicants.
- 3) Investigation may be made as to character and ability and all statements made by applicants are subject to verification.
- 4) Falsification of any part of the application for employment or examination will result in disqualification and possible legal action.
- 5) Veterans, disabled Veterans, or \*active duty members of the Armed Forces, desiring to claim additional credit must make application for such additional credit in their applications. They will be allowed the option of waiving these credits after the completion of the examination. You must request them in the space provided on the examination application.
  - 5a) If you are an active member of the Armed Services during the period of time for filing an application for a particular exam, or the date of the examination, you may be eligible for special considerations. Please contact the Town of Colonie Civil Service Department at (518)783-2721.
- 6) Police Officer or Firefighter Survivor Credits: Per Section 85-a of Civil Service Law, children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty shall be entitled to receive an additional ten points in a competitive exam for which they qualify for original appointment in the same municipality in which his/her parent has served. If you qualify, inform this office when you submit your application for exam. A candidate claiming such credit has a minimum of 2 months from the application deadline to provide the necessary documentation to verify additional credit eligibility. No credit may be added after establishment of the eligible list.
- 7) Accepted candidates will be notified when and where to appear for examination. If an application is rejected, due notice will be sent. The department does not make formal acknowledgment of the receipt of an application.
- 8) Call this office if you do not receive a notice within three days of the date of the examination. Notice to appear for the test will be conditional, since final review of applications for all requirements may not be made until after the written test. You may not be admitted to the examination room without official notice. Have your Social Security card (if you have one) and your Driver's License available at the exam center.

- 9) The duration of the eligible lists shall be fixed for not less than one nor more than four years. Note: The duration of eligible lists established as a result of continuous recruitment exams will be one year only.
- 10) Changing conditions may make it advisable to certify for future vacancies at higher or lower salaries than those announced.
- 11) You may be required to take a medical examination to determine if you are medically and physically capable of performing the duties of the position.
- 12) CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Failure to notify the Personnel Officer of a change of address may result in disqualification for examination or certification for appointment following examination. A Change of Address form may be found on-line at [www.colonie.org/civilservice](http://www.colonie.org/civilservice). **Failure to do so may delay correspondence and affect recruitment opportunity.**
- 13) Religious Accommodations – Persons with a Disability – Military Members: If special arrangements for testing are required, indicate this on your application form.
- 14) Applications must be filed in the Civil Service Department no later than 4:30PM on the last filing date as noted above – or post-marked no later than one day prior to last filing date.
- 15) Applicants for examination or employment are solely responsible to provide written notice of changes which may affect application status.
- 16) Under specific circumstances an alternate test date may be arranged. Your request with written documentation must be received in this office no later than the Thursday preceding exam date. Please ask to see our policy.
- 17) If an emergency prevents you from appearing for examination, please notify this office no later than 4:30pm on the Monday following the test date, (Tuesday, if Monday is a holiday) providing verifiable documentation as to the reasons. The “Policy on Alternate Test Dates” will govern.
- 18) Unless specifically prohibited, candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held, solar or battery powered calculators. Devices with typewriter keyboards, “Spell-Checkers”, “Personal Digital Assistants”, “Address Books”, “Language Translators”, “Dictionaries” and any similar devices are prohibited.
- 19) Applications for examinations in the Town of Colonie are not valid for other Civil Service jurisdictions. If applicants apply to other jurisdictions for examinations scheduled for the same date, it is the responsibility of the applicant to advise the Town of Colonie of their preference to examination location. Attach a “cross-filing” form to your application. Request this form by calling 783-2721 or download at [www.colonie.org/civilservice](http://www.colonie.org/civilservice). You need to call or write to each local Civil Service Agency to make arrangements within two weeks of the examinations. **Important: Candidates taking both State and local examinations scheduled for the same day must take all examinations at a State site. Do NOT call the State. You will be advised by their admission letter when and where to report for your examination/s.**
- 20) Weather Emergency/Exam Cancellation: Listen to your local TV/RADIO stations for information between the hours of 6:00am-8:00am on the test date.