



Dear Guidance Administrator:

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Website:
www.njwater.org

The purpose of this letter is to introduce you to the New Jersey Water Association (NJWA) Water and Waste Water Systems Operator Apprenticeship Program. The NJWA is a private, non-profit corporation providing training and technical assistance to drinking water and wastewater operators and utilities throughout New Jersey since 1990. The apprenticeship program is registered with the U.S. Department of Labor.

Water professionals are ultimately responsible for meeting stringent regulatory standards, replacing aging infrastructure, recruiting and training new operations specialists, and responding to and recovering from disasters. Over the next decade, the water sector is expected to lose between 30 and 50 percent of the workforce to retirement. Many of these employees have worked at the same utility for the majority of their careers, and they will depart with decades of valuable institutional knowledge. There is a growing demand for licensed water and wastewater professionals. It is a respected and challenging career with excellent job prospects.

The NJWA Apprenticeship Program provides paid, on-the-job training and related technical instruction. It is a two-year program requiring 4,000 hours of on-the-job training and 288 hours of related technical instruction to complete. Upon completion the successful apprentice will be qualified to take the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) licensed operator licensing examinations. Licenses are required for individuals to operate drinking water and waste water facilities.

We request that you share this opportunity with your students who may be interested. One of the goals of the program is to expand the universe of potential candidates to those historically under-represented groups in the industry, such as members of minority groups and women. We ask that you consider including such candidates in your outreach.

Water and wastewater utilities provide opportunities for a respected professional career in an important field. Those seeking to develop the skills necessary to enter the profession should consider the NJWA Apprenticeship Program.

For more information on the program please access our website at www.njwater.org/Programs/Apprenticeship.aspx. If you have any questions you can contact us at 609-242-7111 or via email at apprenticeship@njwater.org

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Richard Howlett, Executive Director

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