

# CLEAN WATER SERVICES (CWS) OPERATOR & PLANT TECHNICIAN TRAINING PROGRAM

NEAA26 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



National Environmental  
Achievement  
AWARDS



Oregon is one of few states that require an electrical license for instrumentation work. Many of the schools that provide instrumentation programs are out of state.

To fill this gap, CWS collaborated with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) to develop an in-house training program that met state requirements and offered participants a Limited Energy B (LEB) electrical license.

BOLI standards require CWS to:

- Maintain an apprenticeship committee made up of equal membership from employee and employer representatives
- Hold regular committee meetings
- Develop a curriculum of coursework at a local community college
- Track on-the-job experience through monthly progress reports.

Apprentices are also required to complete 4,000 hours of on-the-job training and over 288 hours of required academic coursework. Once an apprentice completes the required hours, the committee votes to recommend them to take the state exam and obtain their license.



National Environmental Achievement Award

Workforce Development

Clean Water Services (CWS) works to protect public health while enhancing the natural environment of the Tualatin River Watershed. We are a water resources management utility that combines science and nature to clean water and return it to the Tualatin River so it may be used again. We work in partnership with others to safeguard the river's health and vitality, ensure the economic success of the region, and protect public health for more than 600,000 homes and businesses in urban Washington County, Oregon. The slow and sensitive Tualatin River demands excellence from our workforce. To ensure we rise to the challenge, CWS offers many opportunities to train current and future staff, including two apprenticeship programs.

CWS collaborated with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) to develop an in-house training program that met state requirements and offered participants a Limited Energy B (LEB) electrical license. BOLI standards require CWS to maintain an apprenticeship committee made up of equal membership from employee and employer representatives, hold regular committee meetings, develop a curriculum of coursework at a local community college, and track on-the-job experience through monthly progress reports. Apprentices are also required to complete 4,000 hours of on-the-job training and over 288 hours of required academic coursework. Once an apprentice completes the

required hours, the committee votes to recommend them to take the state exam and obtain their license.

In addition to the LEB program, CWS partners with Portland Community College (PCC) for its Manufacturing Plant Electrician (MPE) apprenticeship program. This is an opportunity for individuals to continue to work toward their Journeyman Electrical license. The MPE program is four years and administered by PCC through its Joint Apprenticeship Training Agency. This program requires on-the-job hours and academic classes. This allows CWS to train staff not only for instrumentation but also to prepare apprentices to handle higher voltage needs in the electrical areas of our water resource recovery facilities.