

# MINERAL PROCESSING OPERATOR TECHNICIAN

HOW DOES IT SOUND TO BE A KEY PERSON WHO UNDERSTANDS AND CONTROLS THE PROCESSING OF VALUABLE MINERALS AND METALS?

Do you like computers and technology? Are you interested in operating a variety of equipment? Mineral processing technicians work as part of team to perform an essential role in mining operations.

## JOB DESCRIPTION

- **The mineral processing technician** is part of a team that processes the ore extracted from the ground by the mining crews and loads the finished product into railcars for shipment to customers.
- Mineral processing technicians **monitor processes and equipment** that upgrade ore to produce a marketable product such as potash. **They operate** equipment such as bins, conveyors, chutes, pumps, valves, crushers, flotation cells, cyclones, thickeners, screeners, weigh scales, railcar movers, and front-end loaders.

## COMPENSATION

2007 NEW GRADUATE ENGINEER (PLANT)  
(UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE)

Average Annual Salary: **\$57,000**

## WHY ARE PEOPLE ATTRACTED TO THIS CAREER?

- Safe and orderly work environment
- Opportunity to be part of a team
- **Financial rewards** for high achievers.
- Opportunities for training and career advancement and **continuous learning**

## LIFESTYLE EXPECTATIONS

[WITH SOME POSITIONS IN SOME COMPANIES]

- **READY TO WORK SHIFTS**
- **IF MINE IS IN REMOTE LOCATION:**
  - i) Time away from family for extended periods
  - ii) Live with work colleagues on a 24/7 basis for 2-3 weeks at a time, with 2-3 weeks off between work schedules
- **MINE MAY BE IN A RURAL COMMUNITY, WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY THE OUTDOORS, HUNTING, FISHING, HIKING AND SO FORTH**

# PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

SOMEONE GOING INTO THIS LINE OF WORK SHOULD:

- i) Be a team player and communicate well with others.
- ii) Enjoy working with people from varied backgrounds and cultures
- iii) Enjoy working with math, science, computers, and all things mechanical.
- iv) Be hands-on, problem-oriented, methodical and have an ability to recognize and account for risk in managing tasks.
- v) Respect and follow procedures (especially with hazardous materials, equipment)
- vi) Have a high level of respect for established safety procedures and regulations.
- vii) Accept challenges (such as a variety of working conditions, some severe) with patience, flexibility, adaptability, and fortitude.
- viii) Be adaptable to routine and repetition
- ix) Embrace new techniques and technologies (continuous improvement)
- x) Have good time management skills
- xi) Be physically fit and mobile

## CAREER PROGRESSION OPTIONS: MINERAL PROCESSING OPERATING TECHNICIAN

# 1

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Secondary school diploma is required
- Depending on the type of mining, a university degree in metallurgy, chemical engineering or mineral processing or metallurgical technician diploma is a strong asset
- Specialized on-site training as needed

