



MISSION-CRITICAL PROFILE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: **BORIS NOOS**

Organization: **EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT, WASTEWATER TREATMENT DIVISION**

Job Category (Check one below):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Treatment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic Maintenance Technician/ Instrument Technician |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Distribution | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrician/Electrical Line Worker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater Treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> Machinist/Mechanic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater Distribution | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater Collections Operator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

2. What combination of education, vocational training, apprenticeship, experience, and/or skill did you obtain in order to be qualified and selected for your job?

I gained most of my expertise learning on-the-job. Some employers have had formal training systems in place for me as a new hire instrumentation and control technician. Since control systems have a component of vendor-specific training, some of these employers have often sent me to various vendor training courses.

My formal education includes an A.S. in Electrical Technology, from Los Medanos College. Prior to entering this field I had an FAA Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic's license as well as a B.A. in English. I've used each of these earlier experiences to make myself a stronger technician today.

Through my experience in this particular field, I've also attained an International Association of Automation certification as a Certified Control Systems Technician, level 2. In the future, I hope to obtain an ISA certification as a Certified Automation Professional.

3. What do you like best about your job?

I enjoy the complexity of the work, including the potential for regularly improving the day-to-day operations here. Although I was at first intimidated by the responsibility, I'm beginning to enjoy the opportunity to define, approve, and implement portions of the new control system.

4. Please tell us about the projects and activities you have enjoyed most in your work in the water/wastewater field, and what made them rewarding,

Almost all of the work I do on the DCS involves some measure of transposing a stated operational need into a robust and reliable automated response. I keep learning newer ways to make different things work, which continues to satisfy my hunger to learn. I feel great satisfaction whenever I'm driving a complex project to exceed our operators' expectations and their response is positive.

5. What qualities and capabilities are needed in order for a person in your area of expertise to be successful in the water/wastewater industry?

To be successful in instrumentation and control, you need be very comfortable with math, algebra, trigonometry, basic physics and chemistry. These subjects are the foundation on which the equipment was designed and sometimes troubleshooting happens much more easily when you handle those subjects well. To be really good you'll need to adopt an attitude that keeps you continually learning, including developing decent communication skills (that's verbal and writing!) as well as research know-how (also requires communication!).

6. Do you have any advice for an individual who is considering pursuing a career in your field in the water/wastewater industry?

There's a clear need for more well-prepared instrumentation and control technicians, and not just in the wastewater treatment industry. Take a look at the job description at the EBMUD website and you'll get a good idea for what kind of training and experience a great instrumentation job requires. When it comes to getting that first experience, don't overlook the opportunities that may appear unappealing at first, especially jobs that require shift-work. Often a learner can initially gain more from experience on an off-shift job. And every related experience helps prepare you for better positions or better jobs.