

## My Experience With The Water Treatment Certification Program (WTCP)



I have been working as a Facilities Engineer, which I know to be the equivalent of a technician in the USA, for X-Fab UK; (a semi-conductor manufacturer), since 1991.

My duties involve all areas, including HVAC, Compressed Air, Vacuum, Pure gas systems and an Ultra pure water treatment plant, which included an R.O. plant and Ion exchange beds. All of these duties are shared with seven other Facilities Engineers, on 4 different shifts.

It was about 8 years ago that we experienced problems with yield on some of our products. One of the areas which was thought to be of concern was the water treatment plant. At this time, we had no-one on-site with specialist skills on ultra pure water and water treatment. Fortunately we had a person at a facility the company owned; at that time in Montreal, Canada, who did have these skills and was asked to come over. He made recommendations regarding the water treatment plant.

It was also suggested that someone should take sole responsibility for this part of the plant and receive the training required. The specialist had seen that I had taken a keen interest in his plant recommendations and suggested that I should be that person. He then persuaded our management that we should both attend a 'Water Tech' event with DH Paul holding several seminars on water treatment. These events are held annually in various parts of the USA; to my knowledge there are no such events within the UK. This was my initial, recognised formal training on water treatment and my first contact with DH Paul. I found the entire experience worthwhile and DH Paul very professional. This opened my eyes to the complexity of water treatment and I was keen to further my knowledge. The knowledge that I gained from this experience, although small, enabled me to implement improvements on my return, some of these making savings which far outweigh the cost of the training.

After seeing the benefit of these improvements I began to search for further training and found the WTCP, (Water Treatment Certification Program), correspondence courses organised by DH Paul. With my previous experience with them and the course content, I decided that this would ideally suit my requirements. Due to financial constraints it took several years before my employer agreed to finance this training. In 2006 I enrolled and began the first of the 4 courses, which I completed in 18 months.

The WTCP is a self-paced program starting from the very basic and working up to a level where you are confident with all aspects of water treatment. There were a few teething problems taking exams, however, due to Patty Townley, the Distance Education Coordinator; who I cannot speak more highly of; these problems were resolved quickly and efficiently. I always felt that Patty was just around the corner and not 4000 miles away, across the POND.

I have recently been promoted to a Senior Engineer dayshift role, where my responsibilities will be less 'hands on' and more supervisory. With the vast knowledge gained on the WTCP I will be able to share my expertise with the entire department, and ensure good practices are continued. I am now confident that should the need arise, I could operate or manage any kind of water treatment facility.

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