

## Richard Walters

Principal Consultant

8715 Shetland Lane

Indianapolis, IN 46278

Cell: (317) 502-1921

Richard@waltersenvironmental.com



### Professional Summary

Senior Water & Wastewater Treatment Consultant with over 33 years of experience ensuring regulatory compliance and optimizing treatment facilities across municipal and industrial clients. Expert in troubleshooting complex process issues, developing customized training programs, and serving as Operator in Responsible Charge (ORC) for multiple plants. Proven track record helping over 5,000 operators achieve certification and resolving challenging problems including PFAS treatment, filamentous bulking in activated sludge, industrial oil emulsions, chelated metals, corrosion control, and disinfection byproducts. Frequently retained as an expert witness, providing technical testimony and strategic support in legal and regulatory matters.

### Consultant

#### *Independent Water & Wastewater Treatment Consultant & Certified Instructor*

May 1992 – Present

- Developed and delivered over 200 original training courses on water/wastewater process control, treatment biology & chemistry, operations, regulations, and problem-solving for certified operators, superintendents, and engineers.
- Prepared more than 5,000 operators for certification exams, resulting in high success rates and improved workforce competency across the region.
- Served as Operator in Responsible Charge (ORC) for 14 treatment plants, ensuring full regulatory compliance and reliable operations.
- Troubleshoot and resolved difficult treatment challenges, including breaking industrial oil emulsions, chelated metals removal, filamentous bulking in activated sludge systems, corrosion control, disinfection byproduct minimization, and PFAS treatment at drinking water facilities.
- Authored Operations & Maintenance (O&M) plans and new operational procedures that improved plant performance and efficiency.
- Conducted environmental assessments and prepared preliminary treatment designs for facilities.
- Retained as technical expert witness in legal cases involving industrial and municipal clients; prepared testimony, collaborated on legal strategy, and testified in court on treatment processes and compliance issues.
- Represented clients in regulatory compliance and enforcement meetings with state and federal agencies; prepared supporting reports and documentation.

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## Core Competencies

- Wastewater & Drinking Water Treatment Operations
  - Municipal Drinking Water & Wastewater Systems
  - Industrial Wastewater Systems
    - Extensive Experience in Paper Mills, Refineries, and Other Industries
- Process Troubleshooting & Optimization
  - Activated Sludge
    - Microscopic Analysis (including filamentous bacteria & polysaccharides)
    - Oxygen Uptake Rate (OUR & SOUR)
    - Nutrient Testing
    - Biological Assessment to Remedy Upsets
  - Breaking Oil Emulsions
    - Petroleum Oils, Vegetable Oils, Animal Fats, Glycols
    - API Separators
    - DAF
  - Treating Metals
    - Including Hexavalent Chromium and Low Level Mercury
    - Complexed and Chelated Metals
- PFAS Treatment & Emerging Contaminants
- Operator Training & Exam Preparation
- Operations & Maintenance Plan Development
- Environmental Assessment & Preliminary Design
- Regulatory Compliance (State & Federal)
- Operator in Responsible Charge (ORC) Responsibilities
- Expert Witness Testimony & Legal Support

## Education & Licenses

- B.S. Chemistry, Manchester University
- Class IV Indiana Wastewater License, Active
- Class D Indiana Wastewater License, Active
- Class III Ohio Wastewater License, Active