



WINTER 2024—ASSET MANAGEMENT

The following questions are designed for individuals/trainees pursuing certification as they prepare to take the ABC wastewater operator test. It is also designed for existing operators to test their knowledge. Each issue of *Clear Waters* will have more questions from a different process of wastewater treatment. Good luck!

1. What is an asset?
 - a. Buildings
 - b. Equipment
 - c. Facility staff
 - d. Something with monetary and functional value.
2. Asset management is a process designed to help decide _____ to spend money to achieve a result.
 - a. How
 - b. Where
 - c. When
 - d. All the above
3. What is an initial step in developing an asset management plan?
 - a. Review maintenance history
 - b. Estimate replacement cost
 - c. Create an asset inventory list
 - d. Develop a risk management strategy
4. If an asset is unable to meet performance expectations or is unexpectedly taken out of service, the potential impact to the level of service goals is known as...
 - a. Asset Risk
 - b. Consequence of Failure
 - c. Likelihood of Failure
 - d. Risk Assessment
5. When calculating the remaining useful life of an asset you should consider all of the following except...
 - a. Service life
 - b. Cost
 - c. Age
 - d. Condition
6. What is the primary goal of an asset management plan in a wastewater utility?
 - a. To track employees' work hours
 - b. To justify rate increases
 - c. To comply with NPDES permit requirements
 - d. To ensure assets perform efficiently and for their full lifecycle
7. What is a Criticality Assessment in asset management?
 - a. A list of all employees trained in maintenance
 - b. A ranking of assets based on the risk and consequences of failure
 - c. A process for ordering new equipment
 - d. A checklist for daily safety inspections
8. What does Level of Service (LOS) mean in asset management?
 - a. The number of customers a wastewater treatment plant serves
 - b. The number of employees available for maintenance tasks
 - c. The performance and reliability standards that a utility commits to providing
 - d. The flow rate through a wastewater treatment plant
9. Why is it important to track asset conditions over time?
 - a. To identify when an asset will need maintenance or replacement
 - b. To ensure regulatory agencies have access to data
 - c. To justify purchasing more spare parts
 - d. To track operator rounds
10. Who plays a role in asset management at a wastewater utility?
 - a. Maintenance staff who repair and replace equipment
 - b. Operators who protect public health and the environment by running the plant and monitoring system performance
 - c. Management, administration, finance and capital projects
 - d. All of the above

Answers:

1. d. Something with monetary and functional value.
2. d. All the above
3. c. Create an asset inventory list
4. b. Consequence of Failure
5. b. Cost
6. d. To ensure assets perform efficiently and for their full lifecycle
7. b. A ranking of assets based on the risk and consequences of failure
8. c. The performance and reliability standards that a utility commits to providing
9. a. To identify when an asset will need maintenance or replacement
10. d. All of the above