

Hello, Nebraska!

By Charles Buckley, Wastewater Technician

Hello! I am Charles Buckley. My friends call me Buck. I am the new Wastewater Tech for Nebraska Rural Water. I had heard they were adding a second wastewater tech position. It sounded like a good fit for me with the opportunity to stretch my legs by getting out to meet and to assist other operators throughout the state.

It all started for me when a friend of mine from PeopleService asked if I would be interested in helping out a few days a week. After I put forty hours in the first week I was hooked. Before that I never realized what was behind turning on the faucet or flushing the toilet. Quickly I found out that you never knew what the next day would bring. After being taught by a great operator, I started taking care of a bunch of small SIDs with different water and wastewater operations. A position opened within the company for a fulltime operator in Arlington. At that time I had my water Grade 3 and my wastewater Grade 2 licenses and I was raring to go. I enjoyed making a difference in the community, making the water better and maintaining the collection system. Some other goals we achieved were changing old meters out and going to a radio read system and mapping valves, curb stops, hydrants, manholes, water mains and collection lines.

After several years of dealing mostly with water I felt the need to get to know more about wastewater treatment. I took a position as a wastewater operator in the city of Fremont. Soon after a spot came open in the lab and I was all in. I had a great teacher in my boss. He taught me proper testing techniques, the types of tests and the meaning of the tests and the test results. He also taught me different adjustments of the system to change the results. He also showed me what to look for in the operation of the plant.

After nearly two months on the job and going to the Gering conference. I have met a lot of great operators and I look forward to meeting the rest of you. We live in a great state unlike any other with great communities who are there for one another. GO BIG RED!

If you are in need of any wastewater assistance, feel free to call me at 402-277-6632.