

WASHINGTON MILLS

Job Opening: Research and Development Technician

Washington Mills Electro Minerals Corporation
1801 Buffalo Ave., PO Box 423, Niagara Falls, NY 14302
(716) 278-6600

Company Description

Washington Mills is one of the largest producers of high quality abrasive and fused mineral products in the world. It has facilities throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe and serves a global customer base. Its principal business is the fusing of oxide and carbide minerals in electric arc and Acheson furnaces, as well as the grinding and classifying of the minerals into grains and powders. Established in 1868, Washington Mills continues a long history of excellence in serving raw materials to the abrasive, refractory, ceramic and industrial abrasive markets. We are seeking an energetic and experienced Research and Development Technician for our Niagara Falls, N.Y. facility, well-situated between the U.S. and Canadian border.

Job Description

The job of the Research & Development Technician is to perform: a wide variety of material production tasks, material testing and data collection and analysis functions. The position reports to the Director of Research & Development and the daily tasks are performed in order to serve the objectives of: improving existing products or processes, solving material or process challenges, and developing new products or processes. All tasks are performed towards the goal(s) of improving products and processes for our customers and developing new products and customers in order to grow the business. The Research and Development Technician will be operating a wide assortment of specialized equipment to produce products and will be required to pay very close attention to detail and quality. The job requires safe, careful operation of process equipment, execution of specific in-process control tests and extensive data collection and recording to ensure product and process conformance with exacting specifications.

Essential Functions

Furnacing

The job entails the following manual work on electric arc furnaces: setting up experimental electric arc furnaces, making mixes, operating the furnace, removing the furnaced product, and taking furnace samples for analysis. The Technician will be expected to provide input regarding scale-up parameters for production scale fusion and processing.

Processing

The Technician will be required to operate and become familiar with the attributes and mechanical function of a wide variety of size reduction equipment, particle size screening equipment, classification, magnetic separation, post treatment options and other specialized equipment and processing techniques. In addition to performing the processing functions, the Technician must also analyze the body of result data and draw conclusions for discussion – as well as extrapolate or interpolate data from several tests in order to anticipate the next steps toward a stated goal.

Testing

All products made will need to be tested using a variety of particle size and shape testing equipment and methods including Microtrac, Coulter Counter, density, magnetics, shape, chemistry and other equipment. In addition to running the tests, the candidate must understand, interpret and communicate the results. A good knowledge of equipment calibration and understanding of the mechanical workings of the testing equipment is also required. Test methods for all testing equipment must be studied, understood and strictly followed. ASTM test methods must be followed to ensure repeatability of testing outcomes. Critical thinking of test results is required in order to decide if outcomes logically makes sense or could be wrong and then theorize where a testing error may have occurred.

Record Keeping

Accurate and detailed record keeping of all work performed is an essential function of the job. Recording data, writing up test procedures and outcomes in a professional and clear manner with a close attention to detail is required. Record

keeping will be required to follow the logical documentation procedures of: outlining a problem, describing the chosen test method, explaining the test outcomes and the summary findings for use by others.

Communication

The job requires close and continual communication with engineers, maintenance, production, customer service and sales. Instructions must be carefully followed and attention to detail is of the utmost importance.

Safety

The Technician will be doing manual work that is often new and not routine so an excellent understanding of and respect for safety rules is required. Excellent housekeeping skills are also required – set up and clean up are essential parts of the Research & Development process so attention to detail and cleanliness are important.

Confidentiality

Almost all the work in this position will be considered company or customer confidential information. The Technician will be required to keep Research & Development work entirely confidential as instructed.

Other

- May be required to perform other Research & Development processing as assigned.
- Material handling such as operating a lift truck or moving material to shipping.

Required Attributes

- Organized
- Detail oriented
- Works well independently or as part of a team
- Desire to continually learn
- Critical and analytical thinker
- Self-directed and works well independently
- Good listener/communicator
- Desire to learn from peers and ask questions
- Patience and persistence to work on projects with time horizons of greater than 1 year
- Collaborative
- Technical aptitude
- High level of trust and confidentiality

Required Skills

- Ability to study and commit to memory ASTM guidelines and ANSI and FEPA grading guidelines
- Required experience includes an Associate Degree in a technical or related curriculum with knowledge of chemistry/minerals
- Good mechanical abilities
- Ability to operate heat treat equipment and other related equipment
- Execute work instructions with the maximum amount of accuracy
- Ability to work on multiple projects at one time and balance workload to meet deadlines
- Good writing skills and proficient in Word and Excel

Compensation/Benefits

Washington Mills offers a comprehensive and competitive benefit package including:

- Paid at a rate commensurate with experience
- Medical and dental plans heavily subsidized by Company when working thirty hours or more
- Company-paid life insurance
- 401(k) with an employer match at six months and employer discretionary contribution at one year
- On-site parking
- Immediate paid vacation and holidays
- Family-friendly sick and personal leave

The above statement reflects the general details considered necessary to describe principal functions of the job identified, and shall not be construed as a detailed description of all the work requirements that may be inherent in the job.

If interested, please send resume to: Washington Mills Electro Minerals Corp., HR Department, PO Box 423, Niagara Falls, NY 14302 or email to niagarafallsjobs@washingtonmills.com

Washington Mills is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to workforce diversity. M/F/D/V. Qualified minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and veterans are strongly encouraged to apply.