

LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

Name: JerriAnne Weber
Employer: Agrium Inc. Potash
Education: Chemical Technology
Diploma



DETAILS OF THE JOB: A lab technician's job is to analyze samples efficiently while providing accurate, reliable results. The samples from the underground mine as well as the mill on the surface are analyzed to help run the process optimally. The loadout samples are collected as the railcars are loaded to leave the site. They are analyzed to ensure our product meets the required specifications. Samples are mainly analyzed for grade (potassium content) and grain size. We use different industrial equipment and laboratory instruments for quick, efficient analysis. We complete regular checks on our instruments using wet chemistry (i.e. titrations, water insolubles). We trouble shoot our own equipment and perform routine maintenance on the equipment and instruments.

The best part of the job is the analysis of the non-routine samples. These are samples we do not receive in the lab every day. They require different analysis and use of knowledge obtained from work experience and from courses taken in school.

SKILLS NEEDED:

- Analytical and problem solving skills
- Strong chemistry and math skills

COMMENT: My interest in Chemistry is what led me to take the Chemical Technology Program through Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

WHERE CAN I GO TO GET AN EDUCATION? U. of Regina, U. of Saskatchewan, Northlands College, Saskatchewan Polytechnic

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL COURSES: Chemistry 30, Mathematics 30, Pre-Calculus 20/30, English Language Arts 30

NOC: 2211