CASUAL Assistant Port Engineer (Marine)

Location: Cape May, NJ

Hourly Rate: $62.00 per hour (Maximum Annual Hours = 1,456 per calendar year)

Opening Date: November 23, 2026 Closing Date: Until Filled

I. POSITION SUMMARY

This position is a leader of the Marine Engineers and Maintenance staff for the Cape May-Lewes Ferry (CMLF). This position is responsible for assisting the Port Engineer in determining the priorities for the department and setting a clear action plan to deliver on those priorities to ensure the CMLF fleet is operated, repaired, and maintained in accordance with regulatory requirements, best practice, company standards, and customer expectations. This position manages several key positions, including highly skilled technicians to ensure that quality and timely maintenance and repair activities are completed, and that performance is measured and feedback is provided. This position utilizes resources to deliver on key operational priorities. This position is responsible for project planning and management. In the absence of the Port Engineer and the Permanent Assistant Port Engineer, the Casual Assistant Port Engineer acts on his/her behalf. This position reports to the Port Engineer and Permanent Assistant Port Engineer

II. ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ensures maximum vessel fleet availability and reliability
- Participates in development, implementation and maintenance of policies, objectives, short- and long-range planning; helps develop and implements projects and programs to assist in accomplishment of established goals
- Assists in the development of the CMLF maintenance plan, and helps set overall priorities and performance standards for preventive and predictive maintenance for assigned areas and assigned personnel
- Assists in overseeing and execution of the annual and monthly preventative maintenance plans; directs seasonal support activities, including off-season servicing of equipment, systems, and infrastructure; uses computerized maintenance program to monitor maintenance trends, progress of maintenance, and manage work orders
- Uses systems to maintain records on equipment, inventories, and preventative maintenance activities and analyzes these records to implement or recommend improvements
- Manages and oversees the supervision of personnel in assigned area, including work allocation, training, and problem resolution; evaluates performance and makes recommendations for personnel actions; motivates employees to achieve peak productivity and performance
- Effectively communicates with assigned personnel to set priorities, and to understand and handle employee issues; meets regularly with and involves assigned personnel to determine best vessel upgrades, and improvements, and best practices for vessel maintenance and repairs
- Seeks to balance quality and cost in all purchases required by the department; follow all Authority guidelines for purchase approvals, as well as scope development and solicitation of bids, and manages vendor relationships according to Authority guidelines

- Assists in managing on-site shipyard work during dry-docking and other repair evolutions to ensure contract specifications are being met, and best quality is achieved, negotiates change orders, documents project schedule, and handles pay estimates
- Interfaces with regulatory and government agencies, vendors, contractors, and customers on matters related to maintenance and operations; specialist on regulatory issues regarding marine maintenance; assists as liaison with the U.S. Coast Guard for inspections
- Participates in environmental and safety planning and compliance within policies and regulations to include the execution of mandated inspection processes,
- Provides the highest level of customer service and professionalism to all internal and external customers
- On occasion, sails in an underway capacity to fill staffing needs
- Other duties as assigned

III. REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

- Knowledge of management principles and maintenance practices, procedures, and operations; able to manage a diverse workforce
- Strong knowledge of relevant local, state and federal regulations, and Authority protocols and procedures that impact marine operations, repairs, and maintenance
- Knowledge of business and financial practices related to marine operations and maintenance
- Ability to set clear expectations and performance standards for employees; ability to hold individuals accountable for below average performance
- Supervise, develop, and motivate staff, by organizing, prioritizing, and scheduling work assignments in a complex operating environment
- Helps identify, develop, and implement strategic and tactical plans and solutions
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with internal and external contacts
- Ability to write, read, understand, follow and enforce safety procedures
- Effective oral and written communication skills
- Familiarity with machine shop tools (including metal lathes, drill presses, brakes etc.) and their best use
- Ability to provide superior customer service by responding in a courteous, timely, and efficient manner

IV. REQUIRED EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution or appropriate work equivalent experience in roles with increasing levels of responsibility
- Three (3) years of experience in supervisory roles in transportation or maintenance, including direct supervision of marine maintenance work forces, five (5) years preferred
- Experience in the repair and maintenance of Fairbanks Morse Opposed Piston diesel engines preferred
- Three (3) years of experience with EMD, Caterpillar and/or Detroit Diesel engines and marine propulsion air and electronic control systems preferred
- Three (3) years of experience in the repair and maintenance of commercial vessel propulsion components including line shaft bearings, air compressors, hydraulic systems and other ancillary systems

V. LICENSES, REGISTRATIONS, AND/OR CERTIFICATES

- USCG Chief Engineer's license for vessels of the size and type used in Cape May-Lewes Ferry Operation and valid MMD within six (6) months of employment

- Valid Transportation Workers Identification Credential (TWIC)
- Valid driver's license
- Certifications from a marine diesel engine manufacturer school, Fairbanks Morse, EMD, Caterpillar, and/or Detroit Diesel (71 Series) preferred

VI. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Subject to a background investigation and pre-employment physical including drug testing in accordance with applicable Federal Regulation for marine personnel
- Delaware River and Bay Authority requires all employees to have direct deposit with a financial institution
- Must be willing and available for duty at such hours, day or night, as may be required in order to maintain continuous marine operations
- Must be willing and able to attend shipyard events and work at remote locations for extended periods of time
- Must be willing and able to work in extreme temperatures (heat/cold/humidity)
- Must be willing and able to sail on vessel in licensed capacity as needed
- Must be willing and able to work in confined spaces and may be required to use a respirator
- Must be willing to work on high ladders, or aloft or over the side of the vessel if needed

Original: November 23, 2026