

Water is the most important resource for all living things. Without water entire ecosystems would perish. Even in such an advanced society as we live in, nothing would survive without water. Without having clean water systems throughout the world many people would get sick and in worse cases even die. Our tap water goes through numerous forms of treatment to ensure that all harmful bacteria and parasites are filtered out to form a safe source of water for everyone.

The water industry does much more than just clean water and deliver it to buildings and homes. The water industry plays roles in agriculture, medicine, infrastructure, and almost every single other business you could think of. The water industry could best be summarized as the most important resource network in the entire world. They bring clean water to farmers and ranchers, big and small industries, and even the common household. This water is able to be transported efficiently and at a low cost due to the water industry.

Since I was born, my father has been the director of public works for the City of Finley. Some maintenance my father performs are flushing fire hydrants, exercising gate valves and curb stops, jetting sewer lines, and adding degreasers to lift stations to keep them sanitary. Part of his job is to take wastewater and drinking water samples into Grand Forks to be tested. These tests ensure our water is safe for use. I have always been interested in all of the different tests like salinity and PH, but also for minerals like copper, zinc, and fluoride. Although many don't even think about these properties they serve a very large role in protecting water purity and cleanliness.

Wastewater is the most important sample he takes for the city. These samples are taken from the lagoon on the outskirts of our town that houses all the sewer and contaminated water from in town. The samples are taken when the lagoon has reached capacity or late fall for drawdown for winter storage. In Grand Forks the wastewater is tested to ensure safe levels of e coli and suspended solids. Once the tested samples are deemed safe that means all harmful sediments have settled to the bottom of the lagoon and the water is safe to be drained into the environment as runoff.

In conclusion, the water industry is very important to everyone whether they know it or not. Water is sampled to ensure that everyone is receiving pure safe drinking water and wastewater is tested to ensure that the environment is receiving safe runoff water. The most important thing in the water industry is constant maintenance. Maintaining all equipment makes sure that in the event of a water break all gate valves and curb stops can be closed off, or in the event of a fire, hydrants will be in good working order to ensure safety among the entire community.