

# BASIC EQUIPMENT OPERATOR



**Name:** Kathy Gibson

**Employer:** Westmoreland Coal Company

**Education:** 1A Driver's License,  
Training on-site

**DETAILS OF THE JOB:** On the job classroom and safety courses must be completed before operating any equipment. Once the classroom work is complete, the new operators will go out in the field with the senior operators to finish their training. Mines can have scrapers, dozers, graders, loaders, backhoes and sometimes coal haulers. At the site where Cathy works, a Basic Equipment Operator is trained on scrapers, graders, and dozers and can operate any of those pieces of equipment during a shift. The operators run CAT equipment on a 5 week rotation doing 12 hour shifts, days and nights 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The dozers are equipped with GPS and they are programmed to show the operator the cut-fill plan.

Kathy is currently the safety representative for her crew. They have monthly safety meetings where they will discuss a new topic per month as well as bring up any issues that need to be addressed.

**A TYPICAL DAY:** This job has such variety that each day brings opportunity to do something new. Scrapers strip and replace topsoil, either stockpiling it or replacing it directly. Graders help build and maintain haul roads for the trucks. Dozers work on building pads for the dragline and reclaim spoil piles.

### SKILLS NEEDED:

- Good hand-eye coordination, depth perception, and good reaction time

**COMMENT:** "I grew up on a farm so had some experience in operating equipment when I started working at the mine site. I have enjoyed my job running all different kinds of equipment for the past 23 years. You get to work outdoors, have a variety of tasks and can be satisfied when you complete the task at hand" says Cathy.

**WHERE CAN I GO TO GET AN EDUCATION?** Carlton Trail College, Cumberland College, Northlands College, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, SIIT, Great Plains College

**HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL COURSES:** English Language Arts 30, Mathematics 30 or Workplace and Apprenticeship Mathematics 30, Energy and Mines 10/20/30

**NOC: 7521**