

CAREER PROFILE: HYDROGEOLOGIST CINDY STARZYK



Cindy has a Bachelor of Applied Science and a Ph.D. in Geological Engineering focused on hydrogeology from the University of British Columbia. Hydrogeology is the study of water underground.

Cindy's expertise is in assessing watershed-scale hydrogeology and characterizing the interaction between groundwater and surface water using field methods and computer models. She has been working as a hydrogeologist in the mining industry for ten years and has been working in consulting hydrogeology and geological engineering for twenty years. Her experience spans North and South America, and includes projects in desert environments, wet climates, and permafrost regions.

Hydrogeologists are responsible for studying the occurrence, distribution and properties of water in the earth's subsurface and how that water interacts with water in the atmosphere and on the surface. They also study water quality and consider topics such as how climate and mines influence the properties of the subsurface water.

KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES, & SKILLS

- Critical reasoning skills and problem solving skills
- Attention to detail
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- The ability to write clear and informative reports
- The ability to work independently and as part of a team
- An interest in the environment and natural resources
- Enjoy outdoor work in all types of weather

EDUCATION, TRAINING, & CERTIFICATION

A four-year Bachelor Degree in Geology, Engineering, or a closely related field such as Environmental Science. A graduate degree in a relevant field is an advantage for advancing to a senior level. You must pursue continuing education throughout your career in order to keep your skills current and to stay up to date with advancements in the field.

SALARY RANGE*

\$48,000 - \$103,000/year

*Wage average as of July 2022.



"I love working on projects in Canada's north and around the world. I'm passionate about understanding the groundwater conditions unique to each site and how those conditions influence development."

- Cindy Starzyk