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Hydrologist 13

GS-1315-13

NOTE: THE SENTENCE IN PART I DESCRIBING THE PURPOSE OF THE POSITION AND PARTS II AND III IN THEIR ENTIRETY ARE PERMANENT PARTS OF THE LIBRARY AND MAY NOT BE CHANGED OR EDITED IN ANY WAY.

I. INTRODUCTION

This position provides hydrologic/hydrometeorologic forecast and guidance products along with other forms of support to NWS offices in its area of responsibility, and to non-NWS users concerned with the management and control of water.

II. MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Performs a wide range of assignments of considerable difficulty and complexity in hydrologic forecasting, techniques and procedure development, and implementation of operational hydrologic procedures. Performs one or more of the following:

Serves as senior forecaster for day-to-day operations, performs duties that include routine daily forecast operations and other short-range forecast operations that are conducted before and during high water and flood episodes. Executes long-range water resources forecast operations, using hydrologic expertise to analyze modeling system statistical output.

Leads one or more highly complex and technically advanced hydrologic service programs. Provides leadership in supplying hydrologic services to the public and in coordinating programmatic changes in hydrologic products. Program support duties include determining and coordinating service requirements of the designated support area with appropriate officials, arranging appropriate levels of hydrologic training, maintaining hydrometeorological databases and information files, and performing necessary studies to establish locations for new hydrologic services.

Provides hydrologic expertise and analysis necessary for existing hydrologic data networks and data exchange activities. Support duties include monitoring hydrologic network performance and establishing requirements and recommendations for maintenance and network modification to improve network performance during flood situations.

Develops, modifies and utilizes applicable state-of-the art computer hardware and software components in the preparation of studies of hydrological events and problems; familiarity with procedures and techniques used in computer modeling, including basin calibration, etc.

III. FACTOR LEVELS

Factor 1 - Knowledge Required by the Position FL 1-8, 1550 pts.

Mastery of theoretical and applied hydrologic and hydraulic science, especially as applied to operational river forecasting; knowledge of the technical components comprising the operational forecast system in order to develop and enhance techniques to improve the quality of the agency hydrologic services.

Knowledge of the agency's hydrology-related programs, their relationships with each other and to the many user communities, to coordinate efforts of headquarters or regional specialists in developing, testing, and implementing program and product enhancements.

Knowledge of the principles and theories of meteorology to lead hydrometeorological studies.

Knowledge of state-of-the-art computer hardware and software capabilities as applied to studies of hydrological events and problems, including application of computer modeling techniques.

Factor 2 - Supervisory Controls FL 2-5, 650 pts.

Supervisory guidance and review are exercised through broad, general objectives for assigned programs. The incumbent independently determines validity and soundness of programs and plans, carries out programs and projects, and makes recommendations and decisions that are normally accepted without significant changes. Work is reviewed only in terms of its relationship to broad policy requirements and administrative controls.

Factor 3 - Guidelines FL 3-4, 450 pts.

Guidelines include operating manuals; regional, national and agency directives; policies, agreements, plans; and other such documents, most of which are general nature. Incumbent uses initiative, resourcefulness, and past experience to develop solutions to problems where precedents are not applicable.

Factor 4 - Complexity FL 4-5, 325 pts.

Assignments involve new systems for communication, data acquisition, and integration of hydrological data which have substantially increased the volume, frequency, and types of data available to hydrologic forecasters and analysts. The work requires creation of new techniques and approaches to meet objectives. The incumbent is faced with resolving the multitude of data and systems problems in order to minimize their impact on the timely production of hydrologic forecasts and guidance products.

Factor 5 - Scope and Effect FL 5-5, 325 pts.

Hydrologic forecasts and warnings must be accurate and timely, as they are essential to public safety and have significant impact on an area's economy. Improved guidelines and requirements developed must be effective, as they affect the nation's forecast programs.

Factor 6 - Personal Contacts FL 6-3, 60 pts.

Contacts include state and local officials with decision-making authority; agency staff hydrologists; regional and headquarters personnel; and/or other Federal personnel in related agencies with water management, emergency management, and civil defense missions.

Factor 7 - Purpose of Contacts FL 7-3, 120 pts.

The purpose of contacts is to negotiate technical approaches to problems; plan with and secure the cooperation of client officials in furthering preparedness programs; and negotiate and explain service levels to specialized and government clients. Individuals contacted may be skeptical, uncooperative, or of differing and conflicting opinions.

Factor 8 - Physical Demands FL 8-1, 5 pts.

The work is primarily sedentary and may involve rotating shifts.

Factor 9 - Work Environment FL 9-1, 5 pts.

Work is performed in a typical office setting.

TOTAL = 3,490 pts.

This position is exempt from coverage under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

IV. UNIQUE POSITION REQUIREMENTS

(Last updated: November 4, 1994)

