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Hydrologist (Headquarters) 14

GS-1315-14 HQ

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

Serves as an expert hydrologist in a program or project leadership or Deputy Regional Hydrologist position organizationally located within NWS Headquarters. Leads headquarters activities such as policy formulation; future operations planning, hydrometeorologic systems development, implementation, maintenance, and support; hydrometeorological system specification and modification; and training planning/support.

II. MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Originates, plans, and coordinates hydrologic projects and activities at NWS headquarters which are broad in scope. Applies professional hydrologic knowledge and related skills to the leadership of a wide variety of projects of considerable difficulty and complexity such as preparation of comprehensive transition planning documents and operations policies; resolution of hydrometeorological network issues; integration of NWS field office requirements into plans and specifications for new hydrologic systems; and design, development, and implementation of hydrologic systems and support frameworks. Assimilates data and information, proposes solutions which meet requirements of managers and users, and leads analyses involved with making critical systems and policy decisions and supporting the continual operation and enhancement of the Hydrologic Services Program.

III. FACTOR LEVELS

Factor 1 - Knowledge Required FL 1-8, 1,550 pts.

Mastery of theoretical and operational hydrologic science and information systems theory necessary to make significant policy decisions and innovative recommendations controlling the direction of the Hydrologic Services Program, solutions to technology transfer issues, and the development and enhancement of operational technology and procedures. Knowledge of the operational problems and policy issues faced by senior and management positions in an RFC or WFO. Basic knowledge of meteorological principles and practices. Also has mastery of the technologies of modern hydrologic science including desktop computers or work stations; FORTRAN, C, or other current programming languages; commercial database/spreadsheet software; and hydrometeorological sensor networks.

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

Assignments are specified in terms of broadly defined missions or objectives. Employee is responsible for implementing projects and policies through analysis of agency/interagency priorities, existing regulations, plans for future operations, and field office requirements. The employee advises the supervisor on the implications of project results and new policies. Questions regarding change in scope and/or project direction are referred to higher supervisors for general guidance, and completed work is reviewed for adequacy and compliance with overall policy.

Factor 3 - Guidelines FL 3-5, 650 pts.

Guidelines are broadly stated in terms of non-specific policy statements, administrative principles, and hydrologic concepts. Existing guidelines include appropriate reference materials such as approved policies; plans; technical papers and journals; agreements; systems and operations manuals; regional, national, and agency directives; and other such documents. Originating plans for operations, systems support, and services which are based on continuing technological changes often require the incumbent to devise new guidelines to be used by others. The incumbent relies on technical experience and training as well as in-depth knowledge of headquarters operations and objectives.

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

The work involves developing solutions to numerous policy, operational and technological problems by applying an understanding of many unrelated hydrologic processes and methods, information systems theory, and management concepts. The incumbent also applies substantial in-depth expertise in one or more hydrological specialty areas used in field operations such as computer programming, flash flood hydrology, etc. Assignments require detailed studies and analyses of a range of hydrologic information, hydrologic models and systems, national policies, and field office requirements. The employee develops highly innovative techniques and approaches to complete a wide range of hydrology-related tasks such as operations planning, modification of existing systems, and development of new systems.

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

The purpose of the work is to provide technical leadership and guidance to hydrologic projects and/or to resolve a wide range of unique policy, field systems support, or international issues that are critical to the agency. The work impacts the effectiveness of the Hydrologic Services Program and the water resource-related efforts of cooperators at both the interagency and international levels.

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

Contacts are made with employees in the unit, officials of other federal, state and local government agencies, general and specific nongovernmental user groups, and the general public.

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

The purpose of contacts is to plan, coordinate, consult, and advise on technical/policy solutions to problems; to resolve operational problems and reconcile conflicting requirements for new and existing systems; to secure the cooperation of client officials in advancing hydrology-related efforts; and/or to assess, explain, and negotiate support requirements with clients and users.

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

The work is sedentary but involves some travel.

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

The work is performed in an office setting.

TOTAL = 3,690 pts.

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

IV. UNIQUE POSITION REQUIREMENTS

(Last updated: April 19, 1995)

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