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Physical Science Technician 08

GS-1311-08

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I. INTRODUCTION

This position is located in

As a senior technician, performs a variety of technical processes and procedures.

II. MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The incumbent is responsible for establishing the procedures and practices necessary to carry out the technical work associated with a project or portion of a large project. The procedures require extensive operation of state-of-the-art equipment. Incumbent may provide input in project planning and scheduling. Prepares samples and other materials for analysis. Determines equipment operating parameters to obtain desired results; uses computer controlled instrumentation to achieve the highest degree of automation practicable. Provides technical guidance to trainees. Analyzes and interprets results of assigned research elements and reports findings to project leader.

III. FACTORS

Factor 1, Knowledge Required by the Position - FL 1-5, 750 points

Knowledge of a wide range of technical principles, requirements and procedures. Knowledge of appropriate work techniques and practices sufficient to assist lower graded technicians or oversee the technical aspects of complex research projects and assure compliance with agency policies. Knowledge of physical science theories sufficient to identify and correct inconsistencies or deficiencies and to determine when to abandon current procedures in favor of others.

Factor 2, Supervisory Controls - FL 2-3, 275 points

The supervisor or project leader gives work assignments, provides guidance and is available to assist with unusual or difficult technical questions. The technician independently applies knowledge gained through work experience to achieve desired results. The completed work is spot checked for completeness and accuracy.

Factor 3, Guidelines - FL 3-3, 275 points

Guides include procedures manuals, technical literature, and equipment manuals. Incumbent exercises judgment in selecting appropriate guide and applies a thorough understanding of procedures and techniques in interpreting guidelines and determining their applicability to situations not specifically covered.

Factor 4, Complexity - FL 4-3, 150 points

The incumbent uses a variety of experimental procedures to perform various tests. The work consists of a number of complex and exacting steps and special precautions to prevent extraneous contamination or loss of samples under study. Requires sound judgment, ingenuity and originality be applied in the conduct of the work. The incumbent observes and records all unusual phenomena or results, recognizes malfunctions in equipment

and/or unusual test results and troubleshoots these problems. The incumbent evaluates the quality of all data before presenting them to the project manager.

Factor 5, Scope and Effect - FL 5-3, 150 points

The work involves treating a variety of conventional problems, questions and situations such as those involved in a small number of standardized, though complicated, activities. The results of the work affects the research decisions and the outcome of the work being carried on by coworkers.

Factor 6, Personal Contacts - FL 6-2, 25 points

Personal contacts are primarily with the scientific and technical staff within the laboratory and with suppliers and equipment representatives.

Factor 7, Purpose of Contacts - FL 7-2, 50 points

The purpose of the contacts is to plan and coordinate the work efforts, and provide technical information to coworkers.

Factor 8, Physical Demands - FL 8-2, 20 points

The work requires extensive standing and sitting on laboratory benches. There is some walking, bending and carrying of light to medium loads. The work requires above average agility and dexterity.

Factor 9, Work Environment - FL 9-2, 20 points

The work may be conducted in a laboratory environment with adequate heat, light and air conditioning or outdoors, sometimes aboard ships. May be required to wear special protective clothing such as gloves and safety goggles when handling hazardous materials or operating equipment.

TOTAL POINTS = 1715

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

IV. UNIQUE POSITION REQUIREMENTS

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