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## Physical Science Technician 12

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### GS-1311-12

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 is located in:

Performs nonprofessional technical work in the physical sciences which is not specifically included in other existing series and which provides support services to physical scientists and other scientific personnel.

#### II. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Serves as senior technician in specialty area within the organization, providing technical guidance to other physical science technicians engaged in the work of the unit.

Participates in meetings with contractors, engineers, users, and data processing specialists to coordinate activities relating to the work of the unit.

Develops operating instructions for implementing procedures related to the work of the organization in the form of memos or directives. Ensures manuals are kept updated and current on policy and operating guidelines for use by other technicians.

Plans management of special projects related to the scientific and technical work of the organizational unit, developing any memorandum's of understanding which may be required for experimental programs.

Provides advice concerning specialty area to scientists and other technicians in other Federal agencies, academia, and industry who are doing cooperative work with the agency.

#### III. FACTOR LEVELS

Factor 1 - Knowledge Required FL 1-7, 1250 pts.

Knowledge of principles and techniques of any of several physical science fields with no one predominant, or of a specialized field of physical science not identified with other existing series, sufficient to adapt precedents, accommodate unique requirements, and to determine methods to use in fulfilling organizational requirements. This knowledge is used to assess information and products produced by the system.

Knowledge of laws and regulations relating to specialty area, to evaluate potential impact of results. Knowledge of principles and skill in applying highly specialized instruments and techniques used in specialty area, sufficient to evaluate their use and efficacy on areas of concern.

Skill in developing and modifying new methods in specialty area, including responding to complex technical questions or solving complex technical problems.

Ability to monitor and operate complex automated data processing equipment used in the organization's operations.

Factor 2 - Supervisory Controls FL 2-4, 450 pts.

Supervisor assigns work, setting the overall objectives and resources available to the employee. Projects and their deadlines are developed in consultation with the supervisor. Employee plans and carries out the work, resolving most technical problems, and coordinating with scientists and others served, as well as lower graded physical science technicians. Supervisor is kept informed of progress and any major problems which may develop. Work is reviewed in terms of compatibility with other work and effectiveness in meeting organizational requirements and goals.

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

Guidelines include technical references, precedents, and agency policies, regulations, and laws providing only general guidance. Initiative and experience are used to modify and extend methods to satisfy requests for information, for requirements which lack precedents, and to develop new methods for use by lower graded technicians.

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

The incumbent is responsible for planning, developing, coordinating, and directing the techniques and methods involved in the work of the organization in order to sustain optimal fulfillment of mission objectives. Modification of established approaches and development of new methods, techniques, or precedents is frequently required to plan and carry out assignments. Incumbent must make decisions regarding approach to take resulting from continuing changes in the program, new technological developments, unknown or unexpected occurrences, and conflicting requirements.

Factor 5 - Scope and Effect FL 5-4, 225 pts.

Work involves problems or conditions which may require development of new methods and approaches. Work affects reliability and acceptability of agency products, planning and direction of projects, as well as the activities of lower graded technicians, the activities of other agencies engaged in cooperative work, and private organizations.

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

Contacts are with scientists, other technicians, and program officials from within the agency and with cooperating outside agencies.

Factor 7 - Purpose of Contacts FL 7-2, 50 pts.

Contacts are made to obtain additional information about the assignment or to clarify the problem to be solved, to coordinate the work of the unit, and to resolve operating problems.

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

Work is primarily sedentary.

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

Work is conducted primarily in an office setting

TOTAL - 2,820 Points

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

#### **IV. UNIQUE POSITION REQUIREMENTS**

(Last Updated: November 4, 1994)

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