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Physical Scientist 11

GS-1301-11

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:

This position conducts analyses requiring professional knowledge of a combination of several physical science fields, or a specialized one not identified with other existing series.

II. MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Performs full range of quantitative and qualitative analyses for a wide variety of requests, including the very difficult, complex or unusual assessments, for programs of atmospheric, oceanic, or other technological assessments.

Reviews background information, agency reports on similar situations, and pertinent guidelines. Determines approach, methods, and procedures to use in order to obtain the information needed. Adapts or modifies methods and procedures, as needed, to satisfy special requirements, or to improve or extend their application to other situations.

Evaluates and interprets results to determine their scientific significance and to ensure that all aspects of the information required are provided.

III. FACTOR LEVELS

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

Knowledge of principles, theories, and practices of a combination of several physical science fields with no one predominant, or a specialized field of physical science not identified with other existing series, sufficient to adapt precedents, make significant departures from previous approaches, accommodate unique requirements, and to determine methods to use in evaluating and interpreting significance of results.

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, techniques, and/or mathematical models used in specialty area, sufficient to evaluate their use and efficacy on areas of concern.

Skill in developing and modifying analytical methods to make determinations in specialty area, including responding to complex technical questions or solving unprecedented problems.

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

Supervisor assigns work without indicating which methods and procedures to use. Employee plans and carries out the work, resolving most technical problems, and coordinating with clients served. Keeps supervisor informed of progress and major problems. Results and conclusions are reviewed for technical soundness and effectiveness in fulfilling requirements.

Factor 3 - Guidelines FL 3-3, 275 pts.

Guidelines include technical references, methodology manuals, established laboratory practices, work directives, and agency policies. Employee uses judgment to evaluate and select appropriate guides and to modify and adapt them to accommodate specialized requirements or unusual assignment factors.

Factor 4 - Complexity FL 4-4, 225 pts.

Assignments include variety of studies and projects directed towards the solution of problems. Complexities include limited information as to what approaches and methods to use, unusual analytical requirements, and lack of relevant literature. Adaptation and modification of methods are usually necessary.

Factor 5 - Scope and Effect FL 5-3, 150 pts.

Work involves variety of problems, questions, or conditions which may be solved by using established practices. Work affects reliability and acceptability of subsequent products, including program, resource, and product forecasts, and design and scientific adequacy of the unit's programs.

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

Contacts are with scientists, technicians, program and administrative officials, from within and outside the agency.

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, the data needed, and to report the results. Contacts with others are also to discuss methodological problems and possible solutions.

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

Work is primarily sedentary.

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

TOTAL = 2,470 pts

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

IV. UNIQUE POSITION REQUIREMENTS

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