



[Home](#) > [HR Practitioners](#) > [Classification & Position Management](#) > [PD Library](#)

Hydrologist 11

GS-1315-11

NOTE: THE SENTENCES 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

Performs a wide range of hydrologic assignments such as river forecasting, interpretative studies, hydrologic procedure development, systems support, policy development support, and/or hydrometeorological network analysis, with limited oversight and guidance, using standard practices.

II. MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Performs conventional hydrologic/hydrometeorologic forecasting and procedure development functions at a River Forecast Center (RFC), or conventional Hydrologic Services Program support functions at NWS Headquarters. Completes on-the-job and formal training in RFC operations, agency policies and regulations, hydrometeorological data collection, communications, and computer procedures. Continues education and professional development in hydrology, meteorology, and hydrometeorology through NWS training, university course work, and participation in professional societies. Performs one of the following:

1. Participates in forecast and service programs assigned to the RFC including preparation of river forecast guidance during most hydrologic situations and time scales; development of procedures used in forecast operations and for data management/display; preparation of technical reports dealing with operational hydrologic matters; participation in basic hydrometeorological analysis and support functions such as assimilation of radar-based rainfall and quantitative precipitation forecasts; and/or execution of assigned RFC functional responsibilities such as data network analysis or maintenance of rating tables.
2. Performs Hydrologic Services Program support functions at NWS Headquarters, including preparation of presentations, contributing to the writing of plans, policies, operational manual sections, and participation in the design, development, implementation, and support of hydrometeorologic systems and networks.

III. FACTOR LEVELS

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

Knowledge of theories, methods and techniques of professional hydrology sufficient to formulate and produce a variety of hydrologic products or to analyze, develop, and support hydrologic systems and policies; knowledge of agency programs related to hydrology; knowledge of NWS communications systems and techniques used in hydrologic data collection and dissemination. Knowledge of radar, satellite and remote instrument technology used in the measurement of hydrologic data such as stream flow, snowpack, and rainfall. Basic knowledge of meteorological principles and practices. Also has knowledge of the commonly used computer technologies of modern hydrologic science including FORTRAN, C, or other current programming languages.

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

Employee is fully responsible for planning, organizing, scheduling and completing assignments, which are received in terms of very general instructions. Supervisor discusses objectives and scope, priorities, and instructions on new or revised policies and procedures, and is available when problems are encountered.

Completed work is accepted as technically sound, and reviewed only for adherence to established policies and accomplishment of objectives.

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

In the RFC, standard operating procedures exist in the station duty manual, but technical literature is also consulted. At NWS Headquarters, standard operating procedures are found in the NWS operations manual, approved policies and plans, and technical/systems manuals. Assignments do not involve radical departures from past practices and do not require development of new, novel, or innovative approaches, methods, or techniques. Judgment is required in the evaluation, selection and optimal use of precedents, and available data.

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

The work involves diverse hydrologic problems, projects, systems, and studies. Assignments include evaluating and interpreting a wide range of data, techniques, systems, and/or program issues and adapting them to a range of user interests. The employee may have to weigh and adapt a range of variables to any given situation such as hydrologic forecasting, systems development, and applications programming.

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

At headquarters, findings, project results, and recommendations affect the office's ability to support operations at all NWS field offices. For RFCs, hydrologic forecasts and procedure development activities affect accuracy and reliability of service provided to users.

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

Contacts are 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 7-2, 50 pts.

Contacts are to report information, progress, and results and to plan and coordinate with others.

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

Work is primarily sedentary, but may involve rotating shifts.

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

Work is performed primarily in an office setting.

TOTAL = 2,470 pts.

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

IV. UNIQUE POSITION REQUIREMENTS

(Last updated: April 19, 1995)

[Website Feedback](#) [About OHRM](#) [Contact Us](#) [DOCHROC](#) [FOIA](#) [Site Map](#)
[Privacy Policy](#) [Commerce Homepage](#) [Careers at Commerce](#)
[Commerce Employees](#) [HR Practitioners](#)