Hydrologist (Headquarters) 13

GS-1315-13 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 a senior hydrologist in a program or project support position organizationally located within NWS Headquarters. Performs headquarters functions such as policy development; operations planning; hydrometeorologic systems development, implementation, maintenance, and support; and support interagency coordination, international cooperation, and training programs.

II. MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Plans, coordinates, and advises upon hydrologic projects and activities at NWS headquarters which are broad in scope. Applies professional hydrologic understanding and related skills to a wide variety of assignments of considerable difficulty and complexity such as writing of policy documents, memoranda, and operational manuals; analyses of hydrometeorological network issues; evaluation of NWS field office requirements for new hydrologic systems; and design, development, and implementation of hydrologic systems and support frameworks. Collects data and information, coordinates problems and issues with managers and users; and performs analyses needed to make policy decisions and support 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 practicies. 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 advice and assistance, and completed work is reviewed for adequacy and compliance with overall policy.

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

Guidelines used include appropriate reference materials such as systems and operations manuals, hardware and software design documents, national directives, policies, agreements, plans, textbooks, technical papers,

journals, and other such documents. Because these guidelines will often have only partial applicability to assigned projects, the incumbent relies on technical experience and training as well as general 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 hydrologic 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 = 3,490 pts.

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

IV. UNIQUE POSITION REQUIREMENTS

(Last updated: April 19, 1995)
