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## Physical Science Technician 11

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### GS-1311-11

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:

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. MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Provides technical support for a wide variety of difficult and complex projects or programs of atmospheric, oceanic, or other technological assessments.

Reviews organization's operations to isolate and correct problems.

Participates in meetings with contractors, engineers, users, and data processing specialists to coordinate activities related to the specific program. Briefs contractors and management on operational system performance, problems and upcoming events.

Operates unique technical equipment to acquire, record and process projects related to the specialty of the organization.

Uses the processes of a professional scientist or engineer in measuring and analyzing data to develop methods used in specific technical projects in the organizational unit.

#### 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. 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 3-3, 275 pts.

Guidelines include technical references, methodology manuals, established laboratory practices, work directives, and agency policies. Since employee must demonstrate overall competence in equipment performance, testing, calibration, evaluation, computation, and reporting, technical guidance is provided in the form of general information. 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 a variety of studies and projects directed towards the solution of complex technical problems. Complexities include limited information as to what approaches and methods to use, assessing unusual circumstances, and incomplete or conflicting data. Adaptation and modification of methods are usually necessary.

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

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

Factors 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 performed primarily in an office setting.

TOTAL = 2,470 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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