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## Physical Scientist 09

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### GS-1301-09

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

Incumbent independently selects and carries out established methods and procedures to make determinations for regulatory monitoring, enforcement, or other purposes.

Conducts studies by reviewing background information, agency reports on similar situations, and pertinent guidelines. Then determines appropriate methods and procedures to be used.

May adapt or modify methods and procedures as needed to satisfy requirements, under guidance of higher level scientist. Performs analyses and tests which may include physical measurements, laboratory tests, instrumental analyses, and calculations. Writes reports identifying procedures, results, validity, and conclusions.

#### III. FACTOR LEVELS

Factor 1 - Knowledge Required FL 1-6, 950 pts.

Knowledge of principles, theories, and practices of one or more physical sciences, and knowledge of laws and regulations relating to the specialty area, sufficient to carry out analyses and tests by established methods procedures, and precedents. Skill in using mathematical techniques, operating instruments and other processes.

Factor 2 - Supervisory Controls FL 2-3, 275 pts.

Supervisor assigns work by defining overall objectives, priorities, and deadlines, with suggestions on unprecedented problems or factors. Employee independently plans and carries out assignments, handling problems encountered in accordance with previous training and accepted practices. Completed work is reviewed for technical soundness and conformance with requirements.

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

Guidelines include procedural manuals, technical literature, and government and commercial standards. Guides do not always specifically apply, so employee must use judgment to evaluate, select, and adapt the established guides to specific requirements and problems. Employee analyzes results to ensure that selections and adaptations are valid.

Factor 4 - Complexity FL 4-3, 150 pts.

Assignments deal with a variety of issues and involve various determinations. Employee considers various factors such as the physical properties, information requested, and the expected results to select appropriate

established methods to use. Usually problems encountered can be solved by minor modification of established methods and procedures.

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

Work involves physical analyses and testing for routine or limited projects, or may include routine portions of broader studies. Completed work affects the technical adequacy and acceptability of the operations of the unit.

Factor 6 - Personal Contacts FL 6-2, 25 pts.

Personal contacts are with other scientists, computer specialists, technicians, engineers, and managers in the agency.

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

Contacts are to exchange information or explain work methods and processes. Contacts are also made to plan and coordinate priorities, plan new or modified requirements, or report on work in progress.

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

Work is primarily sedentary.

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

Work is primarily conducted in an office setting.

TOTAL = 1,885 pts.

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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