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## Physical Scientist 12

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### GS-1301-12

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. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Performs full range of analyses for a wide variety of requests, including very difficult, complex or unusual assessments, for atmospheric, oceanic, or other technological assessments. Determines approach, searches literature for applicable methods. Frequently, develops methods unique to analyses being performed.

Develops and plans projects, performing analyses and required procedures. Interprets results to determine validity and significance. Prepares results, interpretations, and conclusions, including possible impact. Identifies need for new methods or approaches.

Provides advice concerning specialty area to scientists in other agencies, academia, and industry. May serve on inspections, act as technical advisor, and evaluate scientific sufficiency of contract and other laboratories and facilities.

#### 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 in terms of general objectives. Employee plans, organizes, schedules, and carries out the work, keeping supervisor informed of potentially controversial matters. Completed work is accepted as technically correct and is reviewed for overall effectiveness.

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

Guidelines include technical references, literature, precedents, agency policies, regulations, and laws. Initiative and experience are used to modify and extend methods to satisfy requests and requirements which lack precedents.

Factor 4 - Complexity FL 4-5, 325 pts.

Assignments typically consist of novel or unique requests. Often several approaches can be taken, methods and procedures are not established, and interpretation of data is inconclusive. Modification of established approaches and development of new methods, techniques, or precedents is frequently required to plan and carry out assignments.

Factor 5 - Scope and Effect FL 5-4, 225 pts.

Work involves problems or conditions which may require development of new methods and approaches. Work affects reliability and acceptability of agency products, planning and direction of projects, activities of other agencies and private organizations.

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

Contacts are with scientific personnel and inspectors in this and other agencies, private industry.

Factor 7 - Purpose of Contacts FL 7-3, 120 pts.

In addition to discussing problems, possible solutions, and to report results, contacts are also to persuade, influence, or motivate scientists and others who are skeptical, uncooperative, or of differing and conflicting opinions.

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

Work is primarily sedentary.

Factor 9 - Work Environment FL 9-2, 20 pts.

Work is conducted primarily in an office setting

TOTAL = 2,905 pts.

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

#### **IV. UNIQUE POSITION REQUIREMENTS**

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