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## Physical Scientist 13

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### GS-1301-13

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 expert-level analyses for a specialty area within programs of atmospheric, oceanic, or other technological assessments, 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

Serves as technical authority in area of personal expertise which often is a major concern of agency, or as team leader. Provides authoritative advice to other agency scientists and high level officials, conducting investigations into phenomena that may require development of new techniques.

Develops, revises, and writes technical portions of agency guidelines that may affect other agencies and/or industries. Writes reports and position papers on subjects which often generate controversy. Coordinates meetings of experts to advance the state-of-the-art.

#### III. FACTOR LEVELS

Factor 1 - Knowledge Required FL 1-8, 1550 pts.

Mastery of principles, theories and practices of the physical sciences required by the specialty area to enable employee to serve as a technical authority on properties, behavior, and/or impact on environment. Skill in extending and adapting existing approaches to develop and plan projects that investigate critical and/or obscure problems.

Knowledge of related sciences, laws, regulations, guidelines, and industrial practices, sufficient to provide expert level analyses and advisories pertaining to the specialty area. Skill in evaluating, communicating, and incorporating into agency guidelines and criteria, the latest developments and changes in the specialty area.

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

Supervisor determines overall objectives and resources. Employee and supervisor consult on priorities and deadlines. Employee plans work, resolves technical problems, coordinates with others, determines approach and methods, keeping supervisor informed of matters that may be controversial or have far-reaching implications. Completed work is accepted as technically authoritative and reviewed only for meeting overall objectives.

Factor 3 - Guidelines FL 3-5, 650 pts.

Guidelines are general policies, regulations, laws, and scientific literature. Judgment is used to determine areas that need development and study and ingenuity is used to devise projects to thoroughly investigate these areas. As team leader or technical authority, develops and interprets agency guidelines and uses considerable judgment to determine need for revisions.

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

Assignments include broad range of activities involving complex, obscure, or novel aspects such as technological developments; new products; and experimental evidence and trends. Usually there are few established methods, and lack of complete information and experimental data. Employee must develop new information, consider data from a wide variety of sources, modify and originate approaches and procedures.

Factor 5 - Scope and Effect FL 5-5, 325 pts.

Serves as technical expert in a specialty area including developing guidelines to be used by operating personnel. Provides expert advice and assistance on a full range of problems concerning specialty area. Work affects policy decisions or technical standards for others to follow.

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

Contacts are with scientists in the same and other agencies, academic organizations, private laboratories, and industry.

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

Contacts are to justify revisions and additions to agency guidelines, to justify positions on controversial issues, to coordinate work with others, to discuss methodological problems, and to explain the data of the project and its interpretation. May make presentations at professional meetings.

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 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: November 4, 1994)

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