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Physical Scientist 14

GS-1301-14

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

Serves as expert in a specialty area within atmospheric, oceanic, or other technological programs. Such expertise requires professional knowledge of a combination of several physical science fields or a specialized one not identified with other existing series.

II. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Conceives, plans, and conducts scientific work of fundamental significance. Coordinates and reviews multi-faceted work being undertaken in diverse locations, setting standards for the work, reviewing work for consistency with agency policy and goals, and furnishing technical advice as needed. Develops short and long range plans, including new approaches to problems, and required resources given existing capabilities. Represents organization on technical committees.

III. FACTOR LEVELS

Factor 1 - Knowledge Required by the Position FL 1-8, 1550 pts.

Mastery of theories, principles, and practices of physical sciences required by specialty area sufficient to serve as expert technical consultant and/or program coordinator in a specialty area. Ability to conceive, plan, advise on, review, and conduct new work to be undertaken by the organization. Knowledge of specialty area to serve as an authoritative source of information on latest developments and trends.

Factor 2 - Supervisory Controls FL 2-5, 650 pts.

Incumbent is recognized as a technical authority in a specialty area. As such, supervisory guidance is limited to discussions on feasibility and relative value of incumbent's work proposals. Incumbent develops and modifies objectives without review. Results of work are reviewed only for adherence to administrative policy and fulfillment of agreed-upon technical objectives.

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

Guidelines are agency policies and strategic objectives, regulations, laws, and scientific literature. Incumbent is expected to conceive, initiate, and monitor policies, programs, and projects dealing with the most challenging problems in the specialty area. As a technical authority, employee is responsible for developing and interpreting policies, as well as instructions, standards, and methods used by operating personnel.

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

Incumbent conceives, plans, conducts, and reviews work in areas where there is little theory to guide efforts. Develops and correlates scientific objectives; originates new methods for planning, designing, and carrying out science program objectives. Provides technological forecasting and evaluation of accomplishments in the specialty area. Explores the impact of scientific breakthroughs on organization's programs.

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

The purpose of the work is to isolate and define unknown conditions, resolve critical problems, and determine the validity and soundness of theories, standards or guides. The work involves identifying and developing ways to resolve problems or cope with issues which directly affect the accomplishment of principal program goals and objectives. Work results in findings/recommendations of major significance which affect the development and/or effectiveness of policies and actions in a number of program areas.

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

Contacts are with key officials and top scientific managers in this and other agencies, private industry, and universities. Incumbent serves on technical planning and standards committees, and may represent the agency in conferences with other agencies, state and local authorities, private industry or public groups.

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

Contacts are to negotiate a consensus on work to be undertaken, resources to be allocated, standards to be adopted that will govern the work of all parties in the specialty area, or to secure support for agency programs. Contacts may be very sensitive where there are public fears about projects being undertaken in their locality, such as fears about microwave transmissions, or where significant amounts of agency resources and their allocation are concerned.

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 = 3690 pts.

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

IV. UNIQUE POSITION REQUIREMENTS

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