

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST**

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:** This is professional work of a complex nature involving a responsibility for overseeing various environmental health protection programs administered by the Department of Health (e.g. mosquito-control related programs, source separation, mobile home parks, temporary residences, private well testing). The work is performed under the general direction of a higher-level public health professional and supervision is exercised over lower-level technical and clerical staff. Does related work as required.

### **TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:**

Supervises the day-to-day functions of various Environmental Health protection programs by establishing priorities for work activities, meeting with staff and managers to identify and resolve problems, exchange information, manage resources, etc.;

Interviews, hires and supervises summer staff involved in various Environmental Health protection programs;

Secures required permits from NYSDEC and EPA (e.g. pesticide treatment for mosquito and rodent control projects);

Performs various types of inspections and field work, as required (e.g. potential mosquito breeding sites, sewage overflows, source separation, mobile home parks, temporary residences and private well testing);

Participates in emergency response drills and exercises such as POD (Point of Distribution) and Indian Point nuclear drills and exercises, including training and preparation;

Prepares written and oral testimony for formal and informal legal action pertaining to health code violations;

Prepares and ensures proper delivery of violation letters, notices of violation, formal hearings and stipulations as well as any other enforcement of legal paperwork;

Prepares and recommends Environmental Health protection policies by reviewing and evaluating regulations, proposing new policies and procedures in order to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations;

Evaluates the efficacy of existing policies and recommending revisions when appropriate;

Prepares and maintains a variety of reports as needed;

May attend meetings and/or conferences.

### **WHEN ASSIGNED TO MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM:**

Oversees and coordinates the activities of staff involved in the open-breeding functions of mosquito control by assigning and reviewing work, setting work priorities, identifying and resolving problems, etc.;

Oversees and participates in various types of mosquito-control treatments, inspections and field work, as needed;

May develop and implement a surveillance program that includes collecting, identifying, and processing mosquitoes for arboviral testing and prepares biological samples for further testing;

May maintain mosquito control surveillance equipment, as needed;

May oversee and coordinate mosquito control activities (e.g. fish stocking, fish/dunk giveaways, etc.).

**FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

Thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of environmental health programs; good knowledge of the principles and practices of environmental health programs, especially those pertaining to mosquito control\*; good knowledge of Public Health Law, and New York State Sanitary Code as they pertain to environmental health protection; good knowledge of Rockland County Sanitary Code and laws as they pertain to environmental health protection\*; good knowledge of NYSDEC and EPA pesticide regulations; ability to analyze and interpret complex government regulations; ability to supervise the work of others; ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; ability to establish and maintain cooperative relations with others, including government agencies, public officials, professional and technical staff and the general public; ability to prepare technical reports; ability to use GIS software in order to update and maintain data\*.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

1. A Bachelor's degree in Physical or Biological Science, Environmental Health, Environmental Science or comparable curriculum and three (3) years of professional (post-degree) experience in environmental health\*\* or
2. A Master's degree in Physical or Biological Science, Environmental Health, Environmental Science or comparable curriculum and two (2) years of professional experience in environmental health\*\*.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Possession of a valid driver's license or accessibility to transportation to meet field work requirements in a timely and efficient manner.
2. If assigned to the mosquito control program must possess a NYSDEC Pesticide License by the time of permanent appointment and must maintain throughout the course of employment in this title.
3. Must have completed a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours in GIS, or comparable coursework or one (1) year of experience in the use of GIS technology.

\*To be demonstrated during the probationary period.

\*\*Environmental health shall be defined as protection against and services related to environmental factors (e.g. diseases, environmental agents such as chemicals that may impact human health, the natural environment, etc.). Environmental health experience may include the regulation and enforcement of public health and environmental matters in accordance with local laws and regulations as well as applicable state and Environmental Conservation laws. Environmental health programs address the areas of housing, food and recreation, water supply, mosquito control, etc. Examples of experience in Environmental health include Public Health Inspectors, Environmental Health Specialists, Sanitarians, and Engineers.