

GEOLOGIST II

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is specialized professional environmental health work involving responsibility for the development and implementation of policies with respect to the management of natural resources, including the remediation of specific environmental health hazards (e.g. underground storage tanks, landfill closure, well water permits, potable water resources, solid waste disposal), and compliance with government regulations (e.g. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and United States Environmental Protection Agency). This title differs from that of a Geologist in the difficulty of assignments and the level of independent judgment exercised. The work is performed under the general direction of the Director of Environmental Public Health, and work guidance (e.g. lead work) may be provided to professional and technical staff. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Develops policies and procedures regarding a variety of environmental health matters including, but not limited to, the management and preservation of natural resources related to groundwater supplies (e.g. drought restrictions, water well permit requirements, petroleum and chemical bulk storage requirements, etc.);

Reviews work plans, reports and planning documents for environmental investigation and remediation projects conducted on groundwater within Rockland County;

Develops written technical guidelines (e.g. water well construction) and provides technical assistance (e.g. data analysis, numerical modeling, fate and transport analysis) to environmental health programs;

Performs hydrogeological assessments to address protection and maintenance of potable water resources;

Acts as liaison between the County Department of Health and regulatory agencies (e.g. the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Public Service Commission, United States Environmental Protection Agency) to assure compliance, exchange information and coordinate activities;

Conducts public education programs, including lectures before community groups, civic and business associations and responds to requests for information regarding environmental issues;

Conducts hydrologic evaluation of groundwater recharge areas and wellhead protection zones using highly specialized numerical modeling software (e.g. Visual Modflow);

Manages the Department of Health Geographic Information System (GIS) data and software;

Acts as duty officer on call for the Department of Health to determine an appropriate response to after-hours environmental emergencies;

Serves as a Hearing Officer on behalf of the Commissioner of Health to adjudicate alleged violations of the Rockland County Sanitary Codes;

Serves as County representative at the Emergency Operation Facility during Indian Point drills;

Provides updates to County Executive and County Legislature on the status of environmental issues related to groundwater;

Provides input for press releases and website design.

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FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of geology; thorough knowledge of the principles of environmental health protection; good knowledge of Geographic Information Systems (GIS); good knowledge of the geography of Rockland County*; good knowledge of government regulations relating to environmental health protection; ability to prepare technical and informational data; ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; ability to interpret complex written material such as government regulations; ability to establish and maintain cooperative relations with others, especially regulatory agencies, legislators and the general public.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

1. A Bachelor's degree in Geology, Geological Sciences, or comparable curriculum, and seven (7) years of professional work experience as a Geologist, four (4) years of which must have been in the field of environmental health protection**.
2. A Master's degree in Geology, Geological Sciences, or comparable curriculum, and six (6) years of professional work experience as a geologist, four (4) years of which must have been in the field of environmental health protection**.
3. A Doctorate degree in Geology, Geological Sciences, or comparable curriculum, and four (4) years of professional work experience as a geologist which must have been in the field of environmental health protection**.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Certification as a Licensed Professional Geologist.
2. Possession of a valid motor vehicle license or accessibility to transportation to meet field work requirements in a timely manner, and
3. Possession of OSHA 1910.120 certification (40 hour training and current 8 hour refresher).

PROMOTION: Two (2) years of permanent status as a Geologist.

*To be demonstrated during the probationary period.

**Environmental Health Protection shall be defined as the conduct of field inspections of various types of facilities to determine compliance with New York State Public Health Law, Sanitary Codes of New York State or Rockland County laws and regulations, or related, and/or citing deficiencies and conducting follow-up inspections to ensure compliance.