

SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is managerial and professional work of a complex nature involving a responsibility for planning, organizing and implementing policies and procedures for the operation of various environmental health programs administered by the Department of Health (e.g. Indoor Air Quality, Radiological Health, Household Hazardous Waste, Smoking Restrictions, etc.) and for managing a wide range of related environmental health issues. The work is performed under the direction of a higher level public health professional and in accordance with applicable government regulations. Supervision is exercised over professional, technical and clerical staff. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Develops and implements policies and procedures for the administration of various environmental health programs (e.g. Indoor Air Quality, Radiological Health, Household Hazardous Waste, Smoking Restrictions, Environmental Noise Control, Source Separation, Lead Poisoning, Asbestos Assessment and Indian Point Emergency Response, etc.) and ensures enforcement of laws and regulations governing such programs;

Coordinates and administers training and education programs for environmental health personnel and business operators;

Reviews and evaluates existing programs and makes effective recommendations for change where required;

Analyzes and interprets government regulations to determine compliance procedures;

Oversees the investigation and resolution of problems and complaints related to public health hazards;

Oversees and participates in responses to chemical emergencies, hazardous materials incidents, air pollution, stream pollution and other environmental health nuisances;

Acts as a hearing officer and prepares recommendations for resolution of Sanitary Code violations;

Prepares complex technical reports;

Provides advice and guidance to local officials and the general public regarding environmental health issues.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of principles and practices of environmental health programs, especially those pertaining to indoor air pollution, water pollution, radiological health, household hazardous waste, asbestos assessment and abatement; thorough knowledge of Public Health Law and State Sanitary Code as they relate to environmental health issues; ability to develop and administer environmental health programs; ability to plan and direct the work of others; ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; ability to establish and maintain cooperative relations with others; ability to analyze and interpret complex government regulations; ability to act as a Hearing Officer; ability to understand and implement basic legal processes necessary to conduct hearings.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: A Bachelor's degree in Physical or Biological Sciences or Environmental Health, or related, and five (5) years of professional experience in environmental health protection*
or

A Master's degree in Physical or Biological Science or Environmental Health and four (4) years of professional experience in environmental health protection*.

(over)

PROMOTION: Two (2) years of permanent status as an Environmental Health Specialist or a Public Health Sanitarian.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Possession of OSHA 1910.120 Certification within one (1) year of appointment and must be maintained throughout the course of employment in this title.
2. Possession of Lead Risk Assessor Certification within one (1) year of appointment and must be maintained throughout the course of employment in this title.
3. Possession of a valid driver's license or accessibility to transportation to meet field work requirements in a timely and efficient manner.

*Environmental Health Protection shall be defined as the conduct of field inspections of various types of facilities to determine compliance with the 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 in order to determine compliance.