

SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST

NATURE OF WORK

This is advanced environmental health and science work.

Work involves responsibility for: issuing environmental health permits; reviewing and approving architect, land use, scientific, and environmental remediation plans; reviewing environmental treatment systems; investigating outbreaks of illness; conducting risk assessments; developing sampling strategies; developing emergency response plans; developing/maintaining databases; modeling emissions; conducting inspections and investigations; assessing compliance; operating specialized field equipment; issuing enforcement notices; providing on-site pollution prevention and risk reduction consultation; training staff; making presentation to the public and boards; developing training programs; serving as emergency responder; assisting in budget preparation. Work may involve supervising and coordinating the activities of professional and technical staff, including serving as Team Leader in at least one major programmatic area. Considerable independent judgment and personal initiative is expected within the framework of established policies. Supervision is received from a professional or an administrative superior and reviewed through written reports, review of work projects and accomplishments.

EXAMPLES OF WORK

Reviews and approves Class II Air Quality; Special Waste; Body Art Establishment; Food Establishment; Standard On-site Waste Water Treatment System; and Private Water Well permits to determine compliance with applicable laws and regulations; reviews requests for variances.

Establishes permit conditions and limits for special air, waste or water emissions.

Reviews and approves architectural plans for new and remodeled food service establishments.

Reviews and approves scientific studies, sampling strategies, waste characterization plans, laboratory analysis, and environmental remediation plans, intended to achieve compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Designs, conducts, reviews and approves environmental health risk assessments and computer modeling of air, water, waste, wastewater and soil to identify public health and environmental impact; recommends Department position or action.

Conducts investigations of outbreaks of illness or disease clusters, and identifies key risk factors; models time-temperature relationships, log growth of bacteria, microbiological kill factors, and cooling capacities of equipment; serves as team leader for programmatic area on the Epidemiologic Response Team.

Issues enforcement notices including abatement orders, permit suspension or revocation orders, stop work orders, product destruction orders; develops and monitors compliance schedules to ensure corrective actions are taken.

Provides on-site assessments of environmental hazards, pollution prevention options, and critical control points in food handling.

Operates and maintains specialized environmental monitoring field equipment.

Assists in developing community health advisories on outbreaks and environmental exposures.

Coordinates investigations and enforcement actions with other local, State and Federal agencies; assists in case development for court action and serves as a technical expert at enforcement hearings and trials; prepares written reports of investigations.

Develops and conducts training programs, certification seminars and public education strategies; coordinates activities with other agencies, stakeholders and interested parties; develops and conducts field standardization training on inspection, sampling, and enforcement; trains subordinate staff in all aspects of environmental health.

Prepares requests for proposals and specifications for contracting environmental sampling, modeling or monitoring of air, water, wastewater, soil or food.

Facilitates development of facility risk reduction and management plans; biological, chemical and radiological terrorism and hazardous materials incident prevention and response plans.

Reviews land use plans, subdivisions, changes of zone and special use permits for public health and environmental impacts.

Assists Environmental Health Supervisor in the review of proposed state or federal legislation, and local laws.

Independently conducts various environmental health inspections/ investigations to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Prepares enforcement actions, civil penalty orders and compliance time frames; reviews supplemental environmental project (SEP) strategies.

Consults with the public and medical professionals on health risks posed by environmental contaminants and hazards.

Develops presentations for the public, and various appointed or elected boards and officials.

Serves as team leader or responder on the Public Health Emergency Response team; determines actions that must be taken to reduce the risk to public health and the environment; conducts sampling; authorizes the hiring of contractors to perform hazardous material clean up; packages and labels all hazardous materials; transports hazardous materials; assures all work is done in accordance with Federal OSHA, DOT and EPA, and State and local laws and regulations.

Performs related work as required.

DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES AND SKILLS

Thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of science, risk assessment and communication, pollution prevention, hazard analysis of critical control points, and/or toxicology as they apply to public/environmental health and environmental quality.

Thorough knowledge of federal, state and local laws pertaining to environmental quality and environmental public health.

Thorough knowledge of the operation and maintenance of environmental monitoring equipment.

Considerable knowledge of agents used in bio-terrorism and chemical terrorism, and of emergency preparedness and response to WMD events.

Ability to use word processing, spreadsheet, database and application development, graphing, modeling, GIS software and Internet search engines.

Ability to use mathematics and statistical analysis to analyze data, conduct modeling, accurately interpret results, and summarize the analysis into report format.

Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other government agencies, citizen committees, elected officials, the media, coworkers and the general public.

Ability to plan, organize and prioritize multiple projects and work to achieve goals.

DESIRABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with major course work in environmental science, environmental health, environmental engineering, or biological, chemical or physical sciences; plus thorough experience in progressively responsible environmental science work.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with major course work in environmental science, environmental health, environmental engineering, or biological, chemical or physical sciences; plus considerable experience in progressively responsible environmental science work; or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the desirable knowledge, abilities and skills.

May be required to hold a registration/certification specifically applicable to the area of work:

Outdoor/Indoor Air Quality, Waste Management, or Water Quality: Registered Environmental Health Specialist (NEHA, State); Professional Geologist (State); Registered Environmental Scientist (NREP); Certified Industrial Hygienist (ABIH); Certified Indoor Air Quality Professional (AIAQC); or any equivalent certification/registration applicable to the area of work.

Food Safety: Registered Environmental Health Specialist (NEHA, State); or equivalent.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENT

Possession of a valid driver's license when operating a vehicle may be necessary to the satisfactory performance of assigned duties for some positions within this classification.

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