New Mexico State Personnel Office

2600 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-0127

Classification Description

ENVIROMENTAL SCIENSTISTS AND SPECIALISTS, INCLUDING HEALTH

Class Title	Class Code	Pay Band	Alt Pay Band*
Environmental Scientists & Spec-B	**F2041B**	**55**	**65**
Environmental Scientists & Spec-O	**F2041O**	**60**	**70**
Environmental Scientists & Spec-A	**F2041A**	**65**	**75**

**In accordance with SPB Rule 1.7.4.10 NMAC, the assignment to alternative pay bands shall be reviewed annually to determine their appropriateness.*

Occupation Description

Conduct research or perform investigation for the purpose of identifying, abating or eliminating sources of pollutants or hazards that affect either the environment or the health of the population. Utilizing knowledge of various scientific disciplines may collect, synthesize, study, report and take action based on data derived from measurements or observations of air, food, soil, water and other sources.

Nature of Work

Environmental scientists and specialists use their knowledge of the natural sciences to protect the environment by identifying problems and finding solutions that minimize hazards to the health of the environment and the population. They analyze measurements or observations of air, food, water, and soil to determine the way to clean and preserve the environment. Understanding the issues involved in protecting the environment degradation, conservation, recycling, and replenishment is central to the work of environmental scientists. They often use this understanding to design and monitor waste disposal sites, preserve water supplies, and reclaim contaminated land and water. They also write risk assessments, describing the likely affect of construction and other environmental changes; write technical proposals; and give presentations to managers and regulators.

Distinguishing Characteristics of Levels

Note: Examples of Work are intended to be cumulative for each progressively higher level of work. The omission of specific statements does not preclude management from assigning other duties which are reasonably within the scope of the duties.

Basic

- Employees in this Role perform routine investigations into environmental problems.
- Employees collect and submit samples for laboratory or field analysis; assist in making inspections; conduct routine field and office project reviews; may compile project-oriented engineering, social, economic and other technical data necessary for public hearings.

Recommended Education and Experience for Full Performance
Bachelor's Degree in Physical, Natural, or Environmental Science, Soil Science, or Engineering.

Minimum Qualifications
Bachelor's Degree in Physical, Natural, or Environmental Science, Soil Science, or Engineering. Any combination of education from an accredited college or university in a related field and/or direct experience in this occupation totaling four (4) years may substitute for the required education and experience.

Operational

- Employees in this Role review applications, preliminary and final plans, and specifications for proposed plants, facilities, and/or equipment to determine completeness, technical feasibility, engineering accuracy, and compliance.
- Employees conduct supplementary investigations, research and surveys as needed; announce and conduct public hearings; issue permits and approvals and notify concerned public of the action; participate in inspections, cost estimates, progress reports, and design change orders; perform tests and audits test results to determine conformity; and compile findings and technical data for reports and projections.

Recommended Education and Experience for Full Performance
Bachelor's Degree in Physical, Natural, or Environmental Science, Soil Science, or Engineering and four (4) years of work experience in public/environmental health, environmental science, Air Quality Management, Biology, Engineering, Chemistry, Geology, Hazardous Waste Management, Wildlife Management, and/or Water Resources.

Minimum Qualifications
Bachelor's Degree in Physical, Natural, or Environmental Science, Soil Science, or Engineering and two (2) years of work experience in public/environmental health, environmental science, Air Quality Management, Biology, Engineering, Chemistry, Geology, Hazardous Waste Management, Wildlife Management, and/or Water Resources. Any combination of education from an accredited college or university in a related field and/or direct experience in this occupation totaling six (6) years may substitute for the required education and experience.

Advanced

- Employees in this Role determine adverse and beneficial environmental, social, and economic effects of highway proposals, archaeological sites and excavations.
- Employees coordinate environmental and archaeological activities with project development and design; analyze and generate procedural changes; determine manpower needs; review and authorize mitigation contracts for ongoing and completed projects; assemble data for planning; engage in or monitor research; develop public information programs; assist management in planning objectives, budget, records, and reports; prepare complex scientific reports and advanced analysis of data.

Recommended Education and Experience for Full Performance
Bachelor's Degree in Physical, Natural, or Environmental Science, Soil Science, or Engineering and six (6) years of work experience in public/environmental health, environmental science, Air Quality Management, Biology, Engineering, Chemistry, Geology, Hazardous Waste Management, Wildlife Management, and/or Water Resources.

Minimum Qualifications

Bachelor's Degree in Physical, Natural, or Environmental Science, Soil Science, or Engineering and five (5) years of work experience in public/environmental health, environmental science, Air Quality Management, Biology, Engineering, Chemistry, Geology, Hazardous Waste Management, Wildlife Management, and/or Water Resources. Any combination of education from an accredited college or university in a related field and/or direct experience in this occupation totaling nine (9) years may substitute for the required education and experience.

Knowledge and Skills

*Note: This information has been produced by compiling information and documentation provided by O*NET. O*NET™ is a trademark of the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration.*

Knowledge

English Language — Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.

Chemistry — Knowledge of the chemical composition, structure, and properties of substances and of the chemical processes and transformations that they undergo. This includes uses of chemicals and their interactions, danger signs, production techniques, and disposal methods.

Mathematics — Knowledge of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications.

Biology — Knowledge of plant and animal organisms, their tissues, cells, functions, interdependencies, and interactions with each other and the environment.

Law and Government — Knowledge of laws, legal codes, court procedures, precedents, government regulations, executive orders, agency rules, and the democratic political process.

Engineering and Technology — Knowledge of the practical application of engineering science and technology. This includes applying principles, techniques, procedures, and equipment to the design and production of various goods and services.

Geography — Knowledge of principles and methods for describing the features of land, sea, and air masses, including their physical characteristics, locations, interrelationships, and distribution of plant, animal, and human life.

Customer and Personal Service — Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.

Persuasion — Persuading others to change their minds or behavior.

Negotiation — Bringing others together and trying to reconcile differences.

Social Perceptiveness — Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do.

Instructing — Teaching others how to do something.

Physics — Knowledge and prediction of physical principles, laws, their interrelationships, and applications to understanding fluid, material, and atmospheric dynamics, and mechanical, electrical, atomic and sub- atomic structures and processes.

Time Management — Managing one's own time and time of others.

Skills

Science — Using scientific rules and methods to solve problems.

Critical Thinking — Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.

Reading Comprehension — Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.

Speaking — Talking to others to convey information effectively.

Active Listening — Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.

Writing — Communicating effectively in writing as appropriate for the needs of the audience.

Complex Problem Solving — Identifying complex problems and reviewing related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.

Coordination — Adjusting actions in relation to others' actions.

Judgment and Decision Making — Considering the relative costs and benefits of potential actions to choose the most appropriate one.

Active Learning — Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making.

Statutory Requirements: N/A

Conditions of Employment: Working Conditions for individual positions in this classification will vary based on each *agency's utilization*, *essential functions*, and the *recruitment needs* at the time a vacancy is posted. All requirements are subject to possible modification to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities.

Default FLSA Status: Exempt. FLSA status may be determined to be different at the agency level based on the agency's utilization of the position.

Bargaining Unit: This position may be covered by a collective bargaining agreement and all terms/conditions of that agreement apply and must be adhered to.

Established: 07/07/2001 **Revised:** 9/4/2014

**Adapted from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics and are intended to illustrate the typical education and experience required for this occupation.*

Note: Classification description subject to change. Please refer to the SPO website www.spo.state.nm.us to ensure this represents the most current copy of the description.