

SENIOR AIR QUALITY SPECIALIST

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, performs the most complex and difficult inspections and investigations of existing and potential sources of regulated air contaminants in industrial, commercial and residential establishments, and of construction sites for compliance with Federal, State and Local air quality, including fugitive dust and Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) rules, regulations; control measures and statutes; provides technical guidance to other air quality staff; confers with agency representatives; explains compliance requirements to member of the general public; performs related work as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is the advanced specialist level, which performs difficult, technical, complex and specialized air quality inspection and investigation duties. Incumbents may provide technical direction and training to staff in the performance of inspections and investigations related to air pollution control, but do not have ongoing lead responsibilities. This is not considered a supervisory class in that the selection and discipline of employees is not assigned to this level.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES (Illustrative Only)

- Conducts the most complex and difficult inspections and surveillance of industrial and commercial facilities for compliance with permit conditions and regulations; determines adequacy of air pollution control maintenance programs; makes periodic inspections to ensure proper operation of permitted equipment.
- Provides technical direction to staff in the performance of inspections and investigations related to air pollution control.
- Assists in the training of staff in areas of assignment.
- Investigates complaints of nuisance and alleged violations of air quality regulations; interviews complainants; initiates appropriate action to resolve problems.
- Inspects industrial and commercial equipment for which permits are pending; investigates new and existing businesses and determines if permit is required.
- Issues notices of non-compliance with District regulations; re-inspects source for remedial actions and compliance; assists in preparation of difficult mutual settlement cases.
- Participates in negotiations with violators for voluntary compliance to laws, rules, regulations and policies of air pollution control; recommends enforcement actions.
- Participates in the development of the emission inventory.
- Interacts with industry representatives to explain all aspects of air quality enforcement; answers questions and provides information and assistance to the public, industries, commercial businesses and other public agencies.
- Represents the Air Quality Management District in public and private meetings with industrial, commercial and public agency officials.
- Maintains records and prepares detailed reports regarding violations, complaints, contacts, special investigations and violation follow-up; documents sources of air pollution, control equipment, methods of operation and related data.
- Analyzes and determines the cause and nature of air contaminants or fugitive dust emissions.
- Coordinates the emission testing of sources.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Principles of physics, chemistry, mathematics and engineering related to air pollution control.
- Basic scientific research methods.
- Principles and concepts of basic process and control equipment.
- District rules and standards pertaining to air pollution control, industrial processes and related mechanical, electrical and chemical systems.
- Investigation procedures and practices.
- Principles and methods of measuring atmospheric conditions and air pollution.
- Sources, types and characteristics of air contaminants.
- Design and use of air pollution control devices, instruments and equipment.
- Air quality plan components and methodologies of calculating impacts of air pollution control measures.
- Principles and techniques of sampling and analysis of specimens.
- Office practices and procedures, including the use of standard office equipment.
- Techniques for dealing with a variety of individuals, often in difficult situations.
- Federal, State and Local rules, regulations, and statutes related to air quality, including fugitive dust.
- Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) rules, regulations and control measures.

Skill in:

- Applying air quality inspection techniques, including detecting, documenting and collecting evidence of violations of air pollution control laws.
- Reading and interpreting blueprints and specifications.
- Analyzing and recommending solutions to varied complex air pollution control and enforcement problems.
- Interpreting and applying District rules and regulations.
- Analyzing and evaluating the results of sampling studies.
- Establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with staff, public, commercial and industrial sources, and other regulatory agencies.
- Exercising sound, independent judgment within established guidelines.
- Communicating effectively in public and private meetings.
- Maintaining accurate records and files.
- Preparing clear, concise and accurate reports, correspondence and other written materials.
- Training staff in work procedures.

Other Requirements:

Must possess a valid driver's license. Must possess a certificate issued by the Air Resources Board in Visible Emission Evaluation. Must be available for on-call and overtime duty.

Education and Experience

Possession of a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in chemistry, biology, engineering, environmental science, or a related field, **AND** two years of experience at a level equivalent to the County's class of Air Quality Specialist II.

NOTE: The above qualifications are a typically accepted way of obtaining the required knowledge and skills.