

ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTOR**Nature of Work**

Under limited supervision, at the full-performance level performs technical and field inspection work in environmental protection programs to determine compliance with applicable laws, regulations, permits, best management practices and/or contracts within an assigned region of the state. Authority is given to follow-up violations with initiation of civil or administrative proceedings or criminal prosecution, including swearing out warrants, or taking other action provided by law to effect prosecution, in compliance with established procedures. Work requires travel and outside work in varying weather conditions and over difficult terrain. Subject to emergency response, being on-call and temporary assignment to a different geographical area of the state as necessitated by environmental conditions and agency needs. May be assigned to an area of specialization as detailed above. Performs related work as required.

Distinguishing Characteristics

This class is distinguished by its full-performance journey-level nature. Employees at this level perform a full range of inspector duties. May be required to provide instruction to trainees engaged in field work, but typically do not supervise or lead Inspectors-in-Training or perform the duties of a training officer.

Examples of Work

- Collects samples from state waters, soil and discharges for field and laboratory analyses to determine environmental quality and compliance; documents findings.
- Makes regular inspections of sites to ascertain types of wastes produced, sources and volume of wastes, efficiency of treatment, disposal methods, compliance with laws, regulations, issued permit conditions, reclamation contracts, best management practices or to determine the condition of state waters, or to evaluate surface mining and reclamation practices.
- Discusses with public officials, private business representatives and the general public, their efforts to protect the environment and to outline pertinent statutory and regulatory obligations.
- Investigates complaints pertaining to suspected environmental harm from point sources, nonpoint sources, or regulated facilities.
- Conducts field reviews of permit applications, contract proposals or sediment control plans.
- Determines the intervals and appropriate sites for sampling, records pertinent data concerning relevant factors and interprets data collected.

ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTOR (CONT'D)**Examples of Work (cont'd)**

- Inspects sites under construction and/or during operation for compliance with contracts, permits or best management practices.
- Responds, in accordance with approved emergency response procedures, to spills or releases of pollutants, some of which may be hazardous substances.
- Consults with supervisor on observations, variances cited in complying with regulations, and problems noted during inspections in order to determine courses of action which will accomplish the regulatory objectives.
- Initiates criminal, administrative or civil enforcement or prosecution actions against suspected violators of environmental protection laws; testifies in court or administrative proceedings as required.
- Orders immediate cessation of any operation or portion thereof when provided for by law where the public welfare or safety calls for such or when necessary due to noncompliance with law, regulations, permit conditions, and/or agency orders.
- Makes decisions on change orders on reclamation contracts, adequacy of construction materials and methods, and verifies appropriateness of payment requests.
- Coordinates enforcement activities with technical staff.
- Writes technical and activity reports.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Knowledge of state and federal laws and regulations and agency policies and procedures related to environmental protection programs.
- Knowledge of the fundamental principles of the natural sciences and chemistry.
- Knowledge of mathematics and algebra.
- Knowledge of scientific sampling methods and analytical procedures.
- Knowledge of the judicial system and statutory and regulatory procedures.
- Knowledge of basic first-aid procedures, safety regulations and precautionary measures.
- Skill in use and maintenance of laboratory and field monitoring equipment, motorboats, mobile radio equipment, 4-wheel drive vehicles, and cameras.
- Skill in reading and interpreting topographic maps, engineering plans, drawings and specifications, and in enforcing adherence thereto.
- Ability to apply acceptable methods, procedures and approaches to making a complete and satisfactory investigation of suspected environmental harm from point sources and nonpoint sources.

ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTOR (CONT'D)**Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (cont'd)**

Ability to understand statutory and regulatory procedures and agency policies and procedures, and to explain these procedures clearly and concisely.

Ability to perform chemical field tests and interpret results.

Ability to carry-out instructions with minimal supervision and exercise good judgement in appraising situations and decision-making.

Ability to keep accurate records, assemble, analyze and evaluate data, prepare technical reports in a clear and concise form, including recommendations for any warranted corrective actions.

Ability to communicate for the purpose of obtaining, imparting or exchanging information, clearly and concisely.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with co-workers, government officials, private business representatives and the general public, deal with controversial matters in a tactful manner, and to effectively represent the agency.

Ability to walk long distances in adverse weather over rugged terrain and to lift and carry equipment for considerable distances.

Ability to work in special apparel such as, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), respirator, and/or encapsulating suit.

Ability to swim.

Minimum Qualifications

TRAINING Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with a degree in natural or applied science, engineering, or occupational safety and health.

SUBSTITUTION Full-time or equivalent part-time paid inspection, technical, or professional employment in one of the areas of assignment may substitute for the required training on a year-to-year-basis.

EXPERIENCE One year of full-time or equivalent part-time paid professional employment in the field of environmental inspection or environmental compliance in one of the areas of assignment.

ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTOR (CONT'D)**Minimum Qualifications (cont'd)**

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS Must be eligible for license to operate a motor vehicle in West Virginia. For work in the areas of hazardous waste management and solid waste management, must take and pass physical examination within the first six months of employment and submit to annual follow-up examinations. Failure to pass the initial examination will result in termination of employment. Failure to pass a subsequent examination may result in reassignment.

NOTE Personnel engaged in activities associated with hazardous wastes risk exposure to situations or chemicals which may cause illness or injury if proper procedures are not followed.

Area of Assignment

Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation
Environmental Compliance Monitoring
Hazardous Waste Management
Surface Mining Reclamation
Solid Waste Management
Water Pollution Control
Air Quality

Established: 9/16/93
Effective: 10/16/93