

## Position Evaluation

Classification:

\*Interdisciplinary  
GS- -14

PD#

Organization:

USACE - MSC  
Civil Works and Management Directorate  
Planning and Policy Division

1. References:

- a. OPM PCS Economist Series, GS-0110, Dec 64

2. Series and Title Determination:

Position serves as a USACE MSC senior expert in economics and social impacts for water and related land resource projects within a large regional geographical area of the United States with responsibility for the management and provision of quality assurance for economic evaluations and social impact assessments performed within the Division and subordinate Districts involving varied geographical features, economic values, political, and social concerns. Performance of work requires application of a knowledge of professional and scientific principles, methods, and processes associated with the assessment and uses of water and related land resources in a widely dispersed geographical area with varied social and political interests as identified with criteria for the classification of economist, geographer, and social science positions. Position is determined to meet the criteria as “interdisciplinary” in that no one series prevails, with assignment to any of the following series and titles:

- a. Economist, GS-0110
- b. Geographer, GS-0150
- c. Social Scientist, GS-0101

3. Grade Determination:

Grade of the position is determined by comparison of criteria in narrative form for the evaluation of work involving the uses and social impact of water and land resources, included in the Economist Series.

Functional patterns characterizing economist positions, as included in the standard, involve: (1) research and analysis, (2) program planning and administration, and (3) consultant and advisory activities. Within the above patterns grade determination is made by reference to five evaluation factors which affect the values of the work, i.e. (1) Scope of Assignment, (2) Technical Complexities, (3) Technical Responsibility, (4) Administrative Responsibility, and (5) Policy Responsibility. Qualifications required is not included as a separate factor for evaluation consideration, but, reflected in the technical complexity and responsibility factors in evaluating each position. Subject position, however, providing support to other functional areas of research and development conducted in a laboratory or other agency environment, is primarily

involved in program planning, consultant, and advisory activities within the MSC regional area

(1.) Scope of assignment, as depicted at GS-13, involves independent responsibility for an integrated program in breadth or depth to determine, for example, the economic impact of major legislation consisting of a pattern of small studies or program segments involving the initiation, formulation, planning, execution, and control of major special studies and continuing projects, or conduct of deeper probings into economic phenomena in the development of alternate plans with analyses of anticipated effects. Technical complexity, as described at GS-13, requires the conceptualization of large or complex economic problems of unprecedented aspects, requiring imagination and creativity in the application of innovative techniques and original methods in resolving unusual problem areas. Technical responsibility at this level is exercised with a marked degree of professional independence and technical authority within administrative supervisory controls, subject to supervisory approval for identifying and selecting specific problems for study and determining investigations to undertake. Responsibility for policy decisions at GS-13 is normally limited to recommendations to higher grade economists based on findings, interpretation or informal suggestions regarding legislative matters.

(2.) Scope of assignments, as described at GS-14, is depicted as existing within the hierarchy of a large complex operation with responsibilities characteristically encompassing two or more programs of a size similar to that assigned at GS-13, involving the formulation, programming and guidance of projects or continuing programs of great importance and significance. At GS-13, the economist is assigned particular problems to explore and solve. Assignments at GS-14 are described to be far less specific involving broad and general responsibility for a particular area of economic activity, such as for example involving international trade or labor law involving extensive staffing within a complex organization. Technical and administrative responsibility at GS-14 is relatively exercised through reliance on an economist's personal professional knowledge and imagination with responsibility to locate and explore the most fruitful areas of program needs. Policy responsibility at this level is exercised, within area of responsibility, for providing policy makers with accurate, meaningful, and properly evaluated economic information.

(3.) Scope of assignment and responsibility at GS-15 is descriptive of responsibility on a national basis such as in administering major economic programs which gather, analyze, interpret and publish economic information for the Government, or involving the administration of legislative decisions bearing on the well being of the economy or assuming responsibility for economic research of great difficulty, importance, and significance.

Scope of assignments and responsibilities of subject position are determined to be most comparable to that described at GS-14 involving responsibility for providing leadership, advice, and consultation involving numerous economical and social concerns of various features and uses of land, lake, and river resources in the provision of navigation, hydropower, flood control, water supply, ecosystem restoration, etc. involving problems and concerns of various projects and complexity in several states within a geographical

area of hundreds of thousands of square miles of land, lake, river and other water resources with multiple national, political, and social interests which may further implicate international concerns. Subject position, in this regard, is determined to exceed GS-13 in both, scope of assignment and responsibility. GS-15, typical of responsibility for major programs on a nationwide basis or involved in major legislative matters is not met. Position, however, does provide significant input for the development of policy, as derived from studies and problems within regional area of responsibility and in serving on national committees.

4. Conclusion:

Position is properly evaluated at GS-14 grade level with “Interdisciplinary” assignment for recruiting purposes to any of the series and title designations included in paragraph 2 of this evaluation.