



IDENTIFICATION

Department	Position Title	
Environment and Climate Change	Environmental Scientist	
Position Number	Community	Division/Region
23-14290	Yellowknife	Regulatory and Permitting /HQ

PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

The Environmental Scientist is responsible for initiating, coordinating, and implementing regional multidisciplinary environmental research studies and programs that contribute to the environmental protection and sustainability of the Northwest Territories (NWT). This includes evaluation of project submissions from private sector industry and government departments and development and implementation of environmental and/or assessment policies and procedures to ensure compliance with regulation and legislation.

SCOPE

Located in Yellowknife and reporting to the Manager, Water Regulatory (Manager), the Regulatory and Permitting Division bears the primary Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) roles and responsibilities related to regulatory review and environmental assessment and regulatory improvement initiatives. All Regulatory and Permitting Division initiatives have territorial or national implications and therefore require timely and effective analyses to enhance GNWT and partner decision-making and actions.

The Environmental Scientist provides innovative thinking to evaluate the adequacy of environmental impact assessments; to coordinate, compile and synthesize specialist advice, and to provide clear concise departmental advice. On some occasions this may require identification and resolution of conflicting specialist advice, to other departments and territorial governments and/or preparation of departmental submissions for public hearings on environmental impact assessments prepared for proposed projects. Advice and submissions must be consistent with departmental policies and mandate and be based on sound scientific principles.

The Environmental Scientist works within broad operational and policy guidelines to



achieve objectives, and work is planned and reviewed with the Manager.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Plans and develops annual operational work plans of projects/studies in consultation with the Manager, Water Regulatory identifying resources required to implement programs and managing project funds and materials, manages and executes contracts to deliver on program work plans.
2. Designs, implements, and manages detailed multidisciplinary scientific and technical environmental research studies, projects, assessments, and/or environmental agreements.
3. Establishes and maintains strategic linkages and consultation and information channels with federal, provincial, territorial and university organizations and coordinates regional input to project reviews conducted by the Impact Assessment Agency, other territorial departments, the federal government, and review boards established under *Land Claims Acts*, *The Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA), the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA) and other relevant legislation.
4. Advises on the applicability, and the interpretation of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, the IFA, and the *Impact Assessment Act*, federal and territorial environmental legislation, and guidelines and standards to departmental staff, senior departmental managers, Indigenous peoples, lawyers, consultants, and environmental professionals for guidance in development of projects and activities on non-federal lands.
5. Identify potential direct and indirect impacts, cumulative effects and mitigative measures of development activities using best practices and current concepts in environmental assessment.
6. Provides professional expertise and advice to various stakeholders (e.g., institutions of public government, Indigenous governments and Indigenous organization and other agencies) on environmental issues; and provides technical input to policy development and recommends policy components.
7. Monitors all aspects of public participation in the environmental assessment of projects; prepares comprehensive guidelines; and prepares technical documents and written reviews and reports.
8. Coordinates and monitors water license applications and submissions; provides technical advice and guidance and acts as the departmental representative on working groups and committees; implements and conducts the assessment and review.



9. Develops and prepares written interventions for regulatory and environmental assessments of proposed projects in the NWT based on input from departmental scientists and own expertise. These reports evaluate the potential environmental impacts of proposed projects, the effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures, and make recommendations about additional mitigations that might be required to prevent or minimize environmental impacts.
10. Develops, writes, and provides responses to questions on resource management policies and activities to the public who may be emotionally charged and adversarial while participating in presentations, to facilitate active participation of communities and other groups regarding environmental issues.
11. Prepares plans and budgets for specific and individual projects and initiatives and for monitoring expenditures for specific projects contracted out to consultants. Accountable for the creation of contracts, contribution agreements and other financial instruments.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Physical Demands

No unusual demands.

Environmental Conditions

No unusual demands.

Sensory Demands

No unusual demands.

Mental Demands

Exposure to external clients is stressful due to opposing views. Some situations may involve threats and/or verbal abuse which may cause mental stress. This exposure may occur during site visits, public hearings and meetings and may be of several hours in duration.

Travel is required for the position, sometimes to remote development sites, twice per year for 1-2 days at a time, or to technical meetings, public hearings, or sessions, 4-6 times per year for 2-5 days at a time. Travel to southern jurisdictions for workshops, seminars and forums can occur 1-2 times per year, for 3-4 days per trip.



KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

- Knowledge of the theories and principles of the biophysical environment, including land, water and air pollution to identify significant environmental issues, assess various mitigative measures and recommend sound treatment technologies; ecosystem components, their interactions and the carrying capacity of ecosystems to make recommendations for sustainable resource development; methods, techniques, theories, principles, practices and departmental requirements as it relates to the science of environmental assessment to implement *Impact Assessment Act*, the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA) and the IFA to perform sound environmental management.
- Knowledge of the theories, principles, and practices of diverse fields of environmental sciences, including chemistry, physics, biology, limnology, statistics, geology, and hydrogeology to provide a wide range of specialized scientific and technical services in the protection and conservation of the environment.
- Knowledge of problem solving and negotiations techniques to assist in project management; report writing, critical review and analysis of reports prepared by proponent and consultants; field research; communications and presentation skills.
- Knowledge of different regional ecosystems in the NWT when conducting environmental assessments of proposed projects to identify site specific potential environmental issues and provide recommendations for mitigation to regulatory agencies.
- Knowledge of the various Aboriginal land claim agreements and the functions of the various boards of public government to facilitate co-management and partnerships in natural resource management.
- Knowledge of data entry, verification, manipulation, retrieval, electronic file management and software programs to retrieve information and analysis of data (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, CIDM, GroupWise, etc.) for accuracy and scientific quality.
- Knowledge is also required of project management functions to plan and lead work groups and of the skills required to administer project resources and to organize, coordinate and assess work provided through contracts.
- Experience of and knowledge of contract and procurement regulations, financial management, budgeting, and reporting.
- The incumbent must have good judgment, superior communication, and presentation skills and operate in an autonomous, flexible, discreet, and trustworthy fashion.
- Ability to commit to actively upholding and consistently practicing personal diversity, inclusion, and cultural awareness, as well as safety and sensitivity approaches in the workplace.

Typically, the above qualifications would be attained by:

Completions of a Master 's degree in Natural Resources Management, Environmental Studies, Environmental Science, Geography, or similar relevant discipline, along with a minimum of



three (3) years' experience in environmental assessment or environmental management, legislative and policy analysis and development, and project management.

Equivalent combinations of education and experience will be considered.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Position Security (check one)

- ☒ No criminal records check required.
- ☐ Position of Trust – criminal records check required.
- ☐ Highly sensitive position – requires verification of identity and a criminal records check.

French language (check one if applicable)

- ☐ French required (must identify required level below)

Level required for this Designated Position is:

ORAL EXPRESSION AND COMPREHENSION

Basic (B) ☐ Intermediate (I) ☐ Advanced (A) ☐

READING COMPREHENSION:

Basic (B) ☐ Intermediate (I) ☐ Advanced (A) ☐

WRITING SKILLS:

Basic (B) ☐ Intermediate (I) ☐ Advanced (A) ☐

- ☐ French preferred

Indigenous language: Select language

- ☐ Required
- ☐ Preferred