

### **PRINCIPAL GEOLOGIST**

**DEFINITION:** Under administrative direction, performs advanced professional geology work of considerable depth and complexity; provides consultative scientific administrative advice and guidance on highly controversial projects; serves as authoritative source on a wide range of complex policy related issues concerning water resources, environmental, mining, geologic and other similar areas; performs related work as assigned.

This classification is the senior expert level, where scientists at this level serve as an authoritative source, performing varied responsibilities from resolving issues that significantly impact scientific projects to managing and representing a broad geologic program of the Navajo Nation. Application of innovative methods is critical to the exploration, development, management and protection of the Navajo Nation's water resources, minerals, oil and gas and its mineral generating revenues and complex water rights and environmental legal issues and challenges.

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:** This list is ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY and is not a comprehensive listing of all functions and tasks performed by incumbents of this class.

#### **TASKS:**

Provides scientific expertise and policy advice to top management officials on complex and controversial programmatic geologic issues where long and short range planning may need to be re-evaluated to accommodate changing situations; develops and implements policies and procedures of major importance which have significant bearing upon exploration, development, management, environmental, reclamation, administrative, financial and legislative decisions; provides expert evaluation of the Nation's primary revenue producing resources (coal, gas, oil and water); pioneers new methods in the exploration, development and management of resolving water drought conditions and revenue short falls critical to the Nation; serves a team leader in critical technical minerals, water, reclamation and environmental related studies/issues and revenue generating activities.

Represents the Nation in dealings with senior management officials of various local, state and federal government agencies and private industries in developing agreements and resolving conflicts; provides expert testimony and technical review on major legal litigations on minerals, water rights, environmental and reclamation related issues; addresses and reconciles a broad range of highly complex problems of geology; devises sound approaches in planning, coordinating, executing and directing programs and/or projects responsible for the development, management and protection of water, oil, gas and mineral resources; evaluates, researches and determines the water and mineral resources potential of the Navajo Nation; plans, schedules and/or is responsible for prudent exploration, development, protection, reclamation and management of land, water, oil, gas and mineral resources.

Conducts studies with federal and state agencies aimed at developing uniform planning, financing, contracting and managing projects jointly; resolves and deals with highly controversial economic and public policy issues; addresses and develops proposals to revise legislation, regulations or other controlling policies impacting scientific projects; prepares, explains and defends proposals/agreements before reviewing authorities; keeps officials of local jurisdiction informed of progress and/or changes; coordinates with contractors, local chapter governments, ranchers and homeowners; may serve as radiation safety officer; performs all duties described at the next lower level.

#### **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS:**

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Extensive knowledge of the principles, practices and techniques applied in geology to sufficiently address and reconcile complex policy related issues and problems.  
Knowledge and understanding of federal and state agency roles, goals, objectives and jurisdiction as they relate to joint management of scientific projects of a broad nature.  
Knowledge and understanding of economics as related to planning and forecasting mineral resource needs of the Navajo Nation.  
Knowledge of geological methods and practices related to exploration and development of minerals including oil, gas, petroleum and surface and subsurface water resources.  
Knowledge of the application of research and study methods.  
Knowledge of computer hardware, software and peripherals.  
Skill in establishing and maintaining effective working relationships.  
Skill in recognizing and evaluating important facts and problems.  
Ability to negotiate water and/or mineral contracts/agreements.  
Ability to resolve problems through advanced mathematical formulas and calculations.

**PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT:** Work requires attention to detail with potential exposure to loud noises, dust, toxic chemicals and fumes when working on site.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** A Master's degree in Geology; and eight (8) years of advance professional geology experience, four (4) years of which must have been in an advisory administrative capacity.

Depending upon the needs of the Nation, some incumbents of the class may be required to demonstrate fluency in both the Navajo and English languages as a condition of employment.