

**Beaver Water District
Job Description**

Job Title: Environmental Scientist

Exempt: (Y/N) Y
Date: March 2023

Department: Environmental Quality
Reports To: Environmental Quality Manager

JOB SUMMARY

This position has primary responsibilities in the areas of environmental monitoring, policy, assessment, source water protection planning, and water quality. The Environmental Scientist is responsible for developing data quality objectives and Quality Assurance/Quality Control Plans, ensuring safe, accurate, and timely collection of chemical, biological and physical samples, and data management. They use data to create models of environmental systems and tools that inform source water protection and operations decision making. The Environmental Scientist is also responsible for the design and implementation of watershed and reservoir assessment projects and research. They participate in a broad range of environmental, technical, and scientific tests, studies, assessments, field work, and monitoring programs.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

N/A

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES *(include but are not limited to the following)*

- Assists the Environmental Quality Manager (EQM) in the direction of environmental monitoring, data collection, and analysis, which includes:
 - Collaboration with EQM and Senior Engineer to develop annual pollutant load report for Beaver Lake;
 - All environmental monitoring programs including partner collaboration.
 - Collaborates with EQ department, lab, and partners to schedule collection efforts.
 - Provides laboratory and field sampling support as needed; and
 - Directs the training of Environmental Specialists and laboratory staff in proper field sampling techniques and protocols and participates in laboratory analysis of such samples when appropriate.
- Provides technical assistance to the EQM in the development, evaluation, and implementation of the District's Source Water Protection Program which includes:
 - Maintaining the SWP annual progress report;
 - Development of geospatial information systems (GIS) data, models, and tools;
 - Maintenance of resources and databases regarding potential threats to environmental quality;
 - Identification of gaps in environmental data for at-risk watershed and reservoir areas;
 - Evaluation of Arkansas' 303d water body impairment program and listings;
 - Development of targeted sampling programs to address 303d listings and source water threats;
 - Provides technical support to partners in SWP activities;
 - Supports District Leadership and Public Affairs in SWP activities through education and response to community requests for information which may include

- technical publications, draft press releases, and talking points to address water quality issues that have received public and media attention
- Participates in state, regional, and national technical committees; and
- Monitors and evaluates new watershed development permits that may impact environmental quality
- Assists the EQM in the development of environmental policy:
 - Coordinates with the other District departments in developing and implementing policies and protocols for resolving environmental issues;
 - Works with the EQM in the development of city, county, and state environmental policy favorable to protection of water quality for drinking water purposes; and
 - Maintains relationships with strategic partners to influence decision making
- Collaborates with the Environmental Quality Manager and appropriate water quality professionals in the development of short and long-term research programs designed to increase the scientific awareness of conditions affecting the treatability of Beaver Lake water for domestic water supply purposes.
- Collaborates in the writing of scientific publications and other industry related technical writing.
- Works with the Environmental Quality and Maintenance Departments to actively manage District property and may include environmental restoration activities and prescribed burns.
- Other duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty and responsibility satisfactorily. The minimum qualifications required to perform the essential duties and responsibilities are listed below. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential duties and responsibilities.

EDUCATION:

- Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university in Engineering, Chemistry, Biology, Environmental Science or related field with an emphasis on environmental management.
- Master's Degree from an accredited college or university is preferred.

EXPERIENCE:

- Two (2)- four (4) years of professional experience in the design and implementation of environmental monitoring and assessment projects including the collection, analysis, and interpretation of environmental data.
- Familiarity with the design and implementation of water quality instrumentation systems.
- Previous experience using statistical programs and/or programming languages to evaluate statistical trends and relationships.
- Demonstrated experience in deriving and applying technical information and conclusions to strategies for water quality protection.
- Demonstrated research, analytical skills, and familiarity with scientific data analysis methods.

- Proficiency in GIS data collection, analysis, and model building as acquired through technical training and/or field experience.
- Any equivalent combination of education, experience and training which provides the desired knowledge, skills and abilities will be evaluated.

OTHER REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

- Working knowledge of State and Federal environmental laws and regulations including but not limited to the Safe Drinking Water Act and related state regulations.
- Demonstrated project management skills and the ability to work effectively as part of a team.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Must have demonstrated proficiency in utilizing GIS, modeling, and statistical analysis software, as well as other types of computer software including but not limited to the Microsoft Office Suite.
- An intellectual and public policy interest in working collaboratively with scientists, engineers, and administrators to increase the knowledge of the interaction between the Beaver Lake watershed and water quality in the reservoir will be considered an asset to a prospective candidate's qualifications.

CERTIFICATES, LICENSES, REGISTRATIONS:

- Grade IV Water Treatment License (have or obtain within 12 months) issued by the Arkansas Department of Health
- Grade IV Water Distribution License (have or obtain within 24 months) issued by the Arkansas Department of Health
- Valid Driver's License
- Valid automobile insurance
- Must be able to successfully pass a pre-employment drug screen, and criminal background assessment.
- Must possess (or be able to obtain within 24 months) Arkansas Boating Safety Course certificate.

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT USED

Telephone, mobile radio, personal computer, copy and fax machine, simple surveying equipment, and water monitoring instrumentation equipment.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The physical demands described in the attachment to this job description entitled "Physical Demands of the Environmental Scientist Essential Job Functions" are those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential duties and responsibilities of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential duties and responsibilities.

MENTAL DEMANDS

Must be able to manage tasks and priorities, and complete job duties proficiently while adapting to changing demands and priorities. This position is one in which a lapse of attention could result

in injury, illness, or death. For the safety of the employee and others, the employee must be able to work in a constant state of alertness and concentrate for long periods of time while operating, maintaining, and monitoring heavy equipment and machinery, and while working with and around hazardous materials, at heights, and in confined spaces.

SAFETY SENSITIVE

This position is designated as a safety sensitive position because it includes as part of the job duties the operating, maintaining, and monitoring of heavy equipment and machinery, and working with and around hazardous materials, at heights, and in confined spaces. Promotes safety practices to others through encouragement and reminders. Follows all safety requirements. Reports unsafe conditions. Ensures system specific safety requirements are followed.

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential duties and responsibilities of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential duties and responsibilities.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee works in a field, laboratory, and office environment. The employee occasionally performs fieldwork in area streams, rivers, and lakes, and is exposed to natural elements of the weather and the landscape. The employee also occasionally works near moving mechanical parts and is occasionally exposed to wet and/or humid conditions and vibration. The employee may be exposed to fumes or airborne particles, toxic or caustic chemicals and risk of electric shock and is required to wear personal protective equipment where appropriate. The employee occasionally works in high, precarious places and is often exposed to outside weather conditions.

The noise level in the work environment is usually loud in field settings and moderate in an office environment.