

**Department:** Department Of Agriculture

**Agency:** Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Job Announcement Number:** WI-DE10-002

### *Overview*

## **Geologist**

**Salary Range:** 47488 to 94778 USD Per Year

**Open Period:** 1/25/2010 to 2/22/2010

**Series & Grade:** GS-1350-9/12

**Position Information:** Full-Time Permanent

**Promotion Potential:** 12

**Duty Location:** 1 vacancy - Madison Metro area, WI 1 vacancy - Eau Claire, WI 1 vacancy - St. Paul, MN 1 vacancy - Rochester, MN

### **Who May Be Considered:**

Applications will be accepted from United States citizens and nationals.

### **Job Summary:**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

This announcement is for 1 position, but the duty station will be determined by the preference of the selectee. The possible duty locations are Madison, WI; Altoona, WI (in Eau Claire county); Saint Paul, MN; and Rochester, MN.

This position is also being announced as WI-MP10-002, which is open to status candidates only. You will need to submit an application package for each announcement in order to be considered for both of them.

Incumbent is responsible for providing the full range of geological services to the assigned geographical area.

### **Key Requirements:**

- Relocation expenses may be offered for this position.
- Official college transcripts are required as part of the application.
- You must possess a valid drivers license.

### *Duties*

### **Major Duties:**

Provides geological analysis services for land use categories in assigned geographic area. These

may include, but are not limited to, crop systems, pasture systems, waste systems, forest systems, wildlife systems, urban systems, irrigation systems, wetland systems, rangeland systems, watershed planning, watershed applications, soils mapping, ponds, dams, grade stabilizations structures, structure rehabilitation, and resource conservation and development.

Applies geologic evaluation for a variety of practices related to the specific systems applied. These may include, but are not limited to, well de-commissioning, dam and spring development, agricultural waste storage facility construction, stream habitat improvement and management, sediment basin construction, irrigation water conveyance, wetland construction, and other commonly used practices and techniques.

Determines the best technical methods to use based on analysis and assessment of the situation. Responsible for conducting geologic investigations as needed. Investigations may require the incumbent to prepare contract documents, secure assistance from local personnel, and identify and secure additional equipment to complete investigation.

Plans and modifies investigations independently based on knowledge of geologic field.

Conducts sedimentation studies to determine sediment storage requirements and sediment surveys on existing reservoirs.

Prepares written reports, including interpretations of surface and subsurface conditions and conclusions concerning the suitability of all earth material and ground water conditions for projects for all land use categories. Written products are tailored for use by other disciplines and program officials.

#### *Qualifications and Evaluation*

##### **Qualifications:**

Applicants must have one year of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower grade level in the federal service OR possess the appropriate education to substitute for specialized experience (see grade-level definitions below). Education and experience can be combined to meet the specialized experience requirement. Specialized experience is defined as experience applying geologic evaluation for a variety of practices related to the specific land use. An example of specialized experience could include using sample cores taken from a site to determine if the site, soils, and underlying geology are suitable for building an animal waste containment structure and to determine the possible impacts of leakage.

At the GS-9 level, specialized experience would be one year of experience assisting with the preparation of geologic analysis for wetland systems, crop systems, pasture systems, waste systems, forest systems, wildlife systems, irrigation systems, and grade stabilization structures .

EDUCATIONAL SUBSTITUTE at the GS-9 level is the completion of a Master's Degree or the completion of two years (36 semester hours) of graduate education leading to a Master's Degree in geology or a related discipline, provided the basic education requirements are met.

At the GS-11 level, specialized experience would be one year of experience independently applying geologic evaluation for well decommission, dam and spring development, stream habitat improvement and management, sediment basin construction, and other commonly used practices and techniques. EDUCATIONAL SUBSTITUTE at the GS-11 is the completion of a PhD degree or the completing of three years (54 semester hours) of graduate education leading to a PhD in geology or a related discipline, provided the basic education requirements are met.

At the GS-12 level, specialized experience would be one year of professional experience preparing written reports, including interpretations of surface and subsurface conditions and conclusions concerning the suitability of all earth materials and ground water conditions for projects involving watershed planning, watershed applications, structure rehabilitation, and resource conservation and development. NO EDUCATIONAL SUBSTITUTE at the GS-12.

Education completed in foreign colleges or universities may be used to meet the above requirements if you can show that the foreign education is comparable to that received in an accredited educational institution in the United States. It is your responsibility to provide such evidence when applying.

#### Specialized Education:

There is a basic education requirement for this position in addition to the specialized experience requirement.

To meet the basic education requirements, you must have either

A: Degree in geology. The study must have included 20 semester hours in any combination of mathematics; physics; chemistry; biological science; structural, chemical, civil, mining, or petroleum engineering; computer science; planetary geology; comparative planetology; geophysics; meteorology; hydrology; oceanography; physical geography; marine geology; or cartography.

OR

B: Combination of education and experience - the coursework shown above plus appropriate experience and/or additional education. Acceptable experience may have been gained through geological field or laboratory work that provided a means of obtaining professional knowledge of the theory and application of the principles of geology and closely related sciences.

The education must have been received from an accredited educational institution, as recognized

by the US Department of Education.

You must be a U.S. citizen to qualify for this position.

Individuals who have special priority selection rights under the Agency Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) or the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP) must be well qualified for the position to receive consideration for special priority selection. See Basis for Rating for definition of 'well qualified'. Federal employees seeking CTAP/ICTAP eligibility must submit proof that they meet the requirements of 5 CFR 330.605 (a) for CTAP and 5 CFR 330.704 for ICTAP. This includes a copy of the agency notice, a copy of their most recent Performance Rating and a copy of their most recent SF-50 noting current position, grade level, and duty location. Please annotate your application to reflect that you are applying as a CTAP or ICTAP eligible.

You will need to successfully complete a background security investigation before you can be appointed into this position.

You will be required to do some travel.

**How Will You Be Evaluated:**

You will be evaluated to determine if you meet the minimum qualifications required; and on the extent to which your application shows that you possess the knowledges, skills, and abilities associated with this position as defined below. When describing your knowledges, skills, and abilities, please be sure to give examples and explain how often you used these skills, the complexity of the knowledge you possessed, the level of the people you interacted with, the sensitivity of the issues you handled, etc.

1. Knowledge of professional geologic concepts, principles, and practices applicable to a wide range of geologic services performed on various land uses in order to respond to the complex geologic characteristics encountered.
2. Ability to apply geologic practices and techniques in order to assist in the analysis, design, and application of a variety of practices specific to land use systems in order to identify issues, prepare technical reports, and make recommendations.
3. Knowledge of established, innovative, and emerging technologies related to geological investigations in order to apply them to the ongoing work.
4. Knowledge of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs and objectives in order to determine how geologic analysis services can be applied to support them.
5. Ability to work both independently and as part of a team with geologists, engineers, soil scientists, and other professional personnel in order to prepare written geologic reports and to communicate technical information.

A two-page limit is recommended for each KSA response.

### *Benefits and Other Information*

#### **Benefits:**

You may participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefits program, with costs shared with your employer. More info: <http://www.usajobs.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#FEHB>. Life insurance coverage is provided. More info: <http://www.usajobs.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#life> Long-Term Care Insurance is offered and carries into your retirement. More info: <http://www.usajobs.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#ltci> New employees are automatically covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). If you are transferring from another agency and covered by CSRS, you may continue in this program. More info: <http://www.usajobs.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#retr> You will earn annual vacation leave. More info: <http://www.usajobs.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#VACA> You will earn sick leave. More info: <http://www.usajobs.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#SKLV> You will be paid for federal holidays that fall within your regularly scheduled tour of duty. More info: <http://www.usajobs.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#HOLI> Alternative work schedule options are available. You can use Health Care Flexible Spending Accounts for expenses that are tax-deductible, but not reimbursed by any other source, including out-of-pocket expenses and non-covered benefits under their FEHB plans. More Info: <http://www.usajobs.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#FSA>

#### **Other Information:**

You must submit all required information by the closing date. If materials are not received, your application will be evaluated solely on the information available and you may not receive full consideration or may not be considered eligible.

The materials you send with your application will not be returned.

### *How to Apply*

#### **How to Apply:**

You must submit your application so that it will be received by the closing date of the announcement. The application packet must contain the items listed below: 1). Form OF-612 (Optional Application for Federal Employment), a resume, or any other written provided that it includes the following information: (a) The announcement number, title, and grade(s) of the job that you are applying for (b) Full name, mailing address, day/evening telephone numbers, social security number, country of citizenship, and highest federal civilian grade held (if applicable) including job series and dates of employment in grade (MM/YYYY). (c) Education: Name, city, state, zip, major fields of study, and type and year of degree(s) received for all high schools, colleges, and/or universities attended. (d) Work experience, including job title, duties and accomplishments, number of hours per week, employer's name and address, supervisor's name and telephone number, starting and ending dates of employment (MM/YYYY), and salary. Indicate whether or not your current supervisor can be contacted. (e) Other qualifications, such as job related training courses (title and year), job-related certificates and licenses, and job related

accomplishments (publications, awards, etc.). 2. A written response to each of the Knowledges, Skills, and Abilities (KSA's) listed under the "Qualifications" tab. Indicate how the KSA was gained and focus on results achieved. 3. A legible copy of official college transcripts, even if you are currently in or have been in the same position. 4. If you are claiming veterans preference, submit a legible copy of your DD214(s). If you are claiming 10-point veterans preference, include Form SF-15 and proof as required on the SF-15, such as a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs. 5). Form OF-306, Declaration for Federal Employment. OF forms are available on the web at: <http://www.opm.gov/forms/html/of.asp> 6. See additional instructions below. Submit your application directly to the Human Resources Office by either mail or by fax. Late applications (applications not received by 4:30 CST on the closing date of the announcement) or failure to submit all of the required documents and information as requested will result in your application not being considered. If you are a current or former federal employee with reinstatement eligibility, you must submit a copy of your last Notification of Personnel Action (SF50) and a copy of your most recent Performance Appraisal. Application mailed using government postage or through an internal federal government mail system will not be considered.

**Contact Information:**

Amy Small

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Or Write:

Department Of Agriculture

8030 Excelsior Drive, Suite 200

Madison WI 53717

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**What to Expect Next:**

Once your complete application is received we will conduct an evaluation of your qualifications and determine your ranking. The most highly qualified candidates will be referred to the hiring manager for further consideration and possible interview. We expect to make a selection within 30 days of the closing date of this announcement. You will be notified of the outcome.

*EEO Policy Statement*

The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, age, membership in an employee organization, or other non-merit factor.

*Reasonable Accommodation*

Federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and

hiring process should contact the hiring agency directly. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

#### *Veterans Information*

Veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces and were separated under honorable conditions may be eligible for veterans' preference. For service beginning after October 15, 1976, the veteran must have served the required length of time and have a Campaign Badge, Expeditionary Medal, a service-connected disability, or have served in the Gulf War between August 2, 1990, and January 2, 1992.

The Veterans Employment Opportunity Act (VEOA) gives veterans access to job vacancies that might otherwise be closed to them. The law allows eligible veterans to compete for vacancies advertised under agency's promotion procedures when the agency is seeking applications from outside of its own workforce.

To claim veterans' preference, veterans should be ready to provide a copy of their DD-214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, or other proof. Veterans with service connected disability and others claiming 10 point preference will need to submit Form SF-15, Application for 10-point Veterans' Preference.

For more specifics on all veterans employment issues such as Veterans preference or special appointing authorities see the VetGuide.

#### *Legal and Regulatory Guidance*

**Social Security Number** - Your Social Security Number is requested under the authority of Executive Order 9397 to uniquely identify your records from those of other applicants who may have the same name. As allowed by law or Presidential directive, your Social Security Number is used to seek information about you from employers, schools, banks, and others who may know you. Failure to provide your Social Security Number on your application materials, will result in your application not being processed.

**Privacy Act** - Privacy Act Notice (PL 93-579): The information requested here is used to determine qualifications for employment and is authorized under Title 5 U.S.C. 3302 and 3361.

**Signature** - Before you are hired, you will be required to sign and certify the accuracy of the information in your application.

**False Statements** - If you make a false statement in any part of your application, you may not be hired; you may be fired after you begin work; or you may be subject to fine, imprisonment, or other disciplinary action.

Selective Service - If you are a male applicant born after December 31, 1959, you must certify that you have registered with the Selective Service System, or are exempt from having to do so under the Selective Service Law.