

**CLASS TITLE: PUBLIC UTILITIES ENGINEERING SPECIALIST III**

**Class Code: 02776501**

**Pay Grade: 33A**

**EO: B**

**CLASS DEFINITION:**

**GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES:** To engage in the most advanced and complex engineering analyses in all utility matters to ensure effective and efficient utility operations including investigations of engineering-related problems, the resolution of billing and service complaints from consumers and public officials, the collection and analysis of pertinent data and statistics to justify any rate modifications, the determination of need for new construction and/or maintenance/repair to existing facilities, and compliance to laws, rules, regulations and established engineering standards for operation by such utilities; as assigned, to serve in a lead worker role in the completion of such tasks, including overseeing and assigning the work of other staff; to conduct inspections of natural gas pipeline facilities, master meter systems, and jurisdictional propane systems; and to do related work as required.

**SUPERVISION RECEIVED:** Works under the supervision of a professional engineer and a superior with great latitude for the exercise of initiative and independent judgement; work is reviewed for conformance to Division and Federal policies and regulations.

**SUPERVISION EXERCISED:** As assigned, to serve as a lead worker and to coordinate, supervise and review the work of employees engaged in engineering analyses of utility matters.

**ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED:**

To engage in the most advanced and complex engineering analyses in all utility matters to ensure effective and efficient utility operations including investigations of engineering-related problems, the resolution of billing and service complaints from consumers and public officials, the collection and analysis of pertinent data and statistics to justify any rate modifications, the determination of need for new construction and/or maintenance/repair to existing facilities, and compliance to laws, rules, regulations and established engineering standards for operation by such utilities.

As assigned, to serve in a lead worker role in the completion of such tasks, including overseeing and assigning the work of other staff.

To conduct inspections of natural gas pipeline facilities, master meter systems, and jurisdictional propane systems.

To provide advice and information to engineers concerning the proper methods of investigation, resolution of bills and service complaints, collection of data and statistics, and compliance with laws, rules, regulations and established engineering standards for operation by such utilities.

To supervise (and conduct if necessary) informal and formal evidentiary consumer hearings, and to research and compile statistics for presentations at these hearings.

To perform a variety of advanced engineering work in all utility matters to ensure effective and efficient utility operations.

To coordinate investigations and evaluations of utility plants and equipment involving such engineering-related problems as the determination of the adequacy of the plant and equipment as well as current methods and means of delivery of services to ensure efficient, continuous and safe services.

To review staff evaluations pertaining to the construction of new facilities and maintenance of existing facilities.

To collect and analyze relevant engineering data and statistics to determine present valuations of utility properties and/or equipment relative to original valuations to justify submitted rate modifications.

To participate in any hearings between The Public Utilities Commission (PUC), Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (DPUC), the utility and the consuming public.

To supervise (and conduct if necessary) the review and investigation of billing and service complaints from consumers and/or public officials relative to existing services or requested services as well as relevant management problems.

To coordinate and participate in investigations and/or to determine utility compliance with state laws and accepted engineering standards of operations as well as PUC and DPUC policies, rules and regulations.

To acquire understanding of all applicable utility rates and assist with consumer problem resolutions.

As directed, to assist the DPUC on engineering and policy matters at public meetings or state, regional and federal

committees.

To coordinate utility operations data to include outage reports from all regulated utilities as a key partner in ESF-12 (energy) and work at the Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during inclement weather and other times of activation as deemed necessary by the Deputy Administrator and/or Administrator.

To coordinate enforcement of Dig-Safe laws and federal pipeline safety enforcement through an agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) under Pipeline Safety Code of Federal Regulations CFR- Chapter 49 Parts §190-§199 and Part §40, inclusive (or any applicable successor provision).

To supervise and coordinate the enforcement of the Rhode Island Rules and Regulations Prescribing Standards for Gas Utilities, Master Meter Systems, and Jurisdictional Propane Systems.

To meet with utility personnel and/or their consultants to review engineering, statistical and other technical data presented by the utility in support of a rate modification.

To verify and validate submitted material and data to determine the need for such adjustments. To submit written findings, conclusions and recommendations to the DPUC/PUC.

To coordinate engineering-related activities that represent the official agency position and to organize, compile and summarize all relevant engineering, statistical and technical data and findings utilized in support of the agency's position.

To serve on National Public Utilities-Industry Committees to ensure Rhode Island has a more prominent role in decision-making at the Federal level.

To complete specialized elective training and other training(s) as directed by the agency.

To work with the DPUC's Rate Department as assigned on evaluations pertaining to the construction of new facilities and maintenance of existing facilities.

To work with the DPUC's Rate Department as assigned to collect and analyze relevant engineering data and statistics to determine present valuations of utility properties and/or equipment relative to original valuations to justify submitted rate modifications.

To work with the DPUC's Rate Department as assigned on a per docket basis to provide utility regulatory analysis.

To testify as an expert witness during hearings on utility matters under review.

As directed, to serve as a consultant on utility matters pertaining to hearings conducted by the DPUC or PUC. To do related work as required.

## **REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT:**

**KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND CAPACITIES:** A thorough knowledge of state and applicable federal laws, rules and regulations and accepted engineering standards of operation relative to regulated utility activities and the ability to enforce same; a thorough knowledge of applicable utility rates; a thorough knowledge of the fundamental principles and practices of engineering in all utility specializations and the ability to apply such knowledge to relevant engineering problems encountered in the construction, maintenance, repair and operation of a utility; thorough knowledge of the Pipeline Safety Regulations – 49 CFR Parts 190 through 199 and Part 40 (or any applicable successor provision); thorough knowledge of Federal & Rhode Island's One-Call regulations regarding underground utility location and damage prevention; the ability to conduct field investigations and inspections relative to the engineering aspects of a utility operation to determine the adequacy of existing or the need for additional facilities and/or equipment, the justification for approving requested rate schedule changes, and the resolution of public complaints concerning the application of rates, services and practices; to prepare written and verbal summaries and reports thereon including analyses and recommendations; the ability to establish and maintain an effective working relationships with superiors, subordinates, public utility personnel and the public; and related capacities and abilities.

## **EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:**

**Education:** Possession of a bachelor's degree from a college of recognized standing in Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering or a closely related field; and

**Experience:** A minimum of two (2) years of related employment experience as a Pipeline Utilities Engineering Specialist II or equivalent at a public utility regulatory agency, public utility company, consulting engineering firm,

or equivalent engineering-related experience, in addition to 85 inspection person-days.

Or, graduation from a college of recognized standing with an associate's degree in Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering or a closely related field and a minimum of six (6) years of related employment experience at a public utility regulatory agency, public utility company, consulting engineering firm or equivalent engineering-related experience.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:**

1. At the time of appointment, must possess at least an Engineer-in-Training certificate of registration issued by the Rhode Island State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors and must maintain such registration as a condition of employment.
2. At the time of appointment, must have completed the PHMSA Training and Qualification courses required for Basic Gas Inspector Training Program.
3. As a condition of employment, must remain current with all training and certifications as outlined by PHMSA.

Class Created: December 20, 2020