

New York State Department of Civil Service
DIVISION OF CLASSIFICATION & COMPENSATION

Classification Standard

Occ. Code 1703100

Renewable Energy Siting Specialist 1, Grade 18	1703100
Renewable Energy Siting Specialist 2, Grade 23	1703200
Renewable Energy Siting Specialist 3, Grade 27	1703300
Renewable Energy Siting Specialist 4, M-4	1703400

Brief Description of Class Series

Renewable Energy Siting Specialists at the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) perform a broad range of professional, administrative, and highly technical tasks related to siting and permitting of large-scale renewable energy facilities in New York State.

Distinguishing Characteristics

Renewable Energy Siting Specialists apply expertise from their respective professional disciplines to specific aspects of the permitting process, and the scope of their review and focus can vary from general planning to highly specific and technical disciplines, such as: Agricultural Resources; Biological Resources; Decommissioning and Restoration; Design, Structural and Civil Works, and Land Use; Ecological Resources; Geology/Soils; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Historical, Archeological and Cultural Resources; Hydrology and Water Quality; Landscape and Aesthetics; Noise and Vibration; Site and Property Boundary Surveying; Transportation/Traffic; and Utilities Interconnection and Transmission. Levels in the series are distinguished by the level of responsibility, scope of expertise, supervision exercised and received, and independence of operation. All positions are in the non-competitive jurisdictional class.

Renewable Energy Siting Specialist 1: full performance level; performs the most basic aspects of review of permit applications for large-scale renewable energy facilities; performs a variety of tasks including carrying out smaller projects in their entirety, or serving as a member of a team to complete segments of larger more complex tasks under the guidance of higher level professional staff; reviews regulated activities and makes determinations or recommendations based on inspections, investigations, and analyses.

Renewable Energy Siting Specialist 2: advanced performance level; performs more complex analysis and review of siting permit applications for large-scale renewable energy facilities; testifies as part of administrative proceedings on behalf of

ORES; may supervise Renewable Energy Siting Specialists 1 or conduct quality control review of work conducted by lower-level staff.

Renewable Energy Siting Specialist 3: first supervisory level; supervises Renewable Energy Siting Specialists 1 and 2; performs all of the functions of a Renewable Energy Siting Specialist 2, but with a wider scope of supervision and responsibility, and demonstrates expert knowledge in larger, more complex technical service activities as a technical expert in one or a combination of specific specialty areas.

Renewable Energy Siting Specialist 4: second supervisory level; administratively supervises one or more Renewable Energy Siting Specialists 3; functions as a highest-level technical expert; engages in the most technically complex aspects of siting permit application review for large-scale renewable energy facilities; manages an identified siting permit review specialty area or unit and all staff assigned to that area or unit; and testifies on the most difficult issues in siting permit proceedings or other administrative proceedings on behalf of ORES.

Related Classes

Environmental Analysts manage project reviews and perform technical environmental analysis, research, and field investigations to determine the environmental impact of projects such as energy generation and transmission facility siting; navigation channel dredging; residential, commercial, and industrial development; water supply and wastewater systems; transportation infrastructure improvements; and environmental enhancement projects.

Utility Analysts perform a broad range of analytical tasks relevant to the electric, steam, gas, water and telecommunications utilities on issues such as retail competition; tariff filings; company records; cost and quality of service; rate proceedings; incentive plans; mergers and acquisitions, cost allocations and rate design to ensure that New York State residents have access to safe, reliable utility service at just and reasonable rates.

Utility Engineering Specialists analyze and process rate proposals and utility rate structures of public utilities and evaluate the impact that proposed changes in rates, charges, rules and regulations will have on the utilities and consumers in New York State. In addition, they review utility emergency preparedness and reporting; evaluate reliability of the electric, natural gas, steam and water systems; monitor capital projects and operations and maintenance; audit operations for safety and compliance with regulations; monitor implementations of audit recommendations; enforce the State's underground facilities damage prevention program; investigate incidents of non-compliance and consumer complaints; assist other State agencies with energy-related policy and initiatives; and work with federal government agencies.

Illustrative Duties

Renewal Energy Siting Specialist 1

Reviews siting permit applications and supporting documentation to ensure consistency with applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

Makes recommendations concerning courses of action necessary to issue siting permits consistent with applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

Provides technical assistance and information to consultants, public officials, and facility managers.

Prepares original writing of complex scientific and technical information.

Participates in meetings with consultants, permit applicants, and other agency staff to address missing information or to clarify information submitted.

Gathers data, analyzes application materials, and prepares written reports to recommend further action.

Develops and presents siting permit conditions, administrative proceedings, briefs, comments, and draft findings.

Conducts on-site assessments as part of application review.

Responds to public comments.

Develops and conducts technical training programs and siting permit application review and processing workshops and seminars to coordinate and disseminate information to industry, public officials, and the general public.

Prepares for and attends adjudicatory hearings.

Develops and maintains environmental permit data information systems and performs analyses of permit data.

Renewable Energy Siting Specialist 2

May perform all of the same duties as a Renewable Energy Siting Specialist 1.

Utilizes advanced expertise to perform more technically complex aspects of permit application review.

Prepares detailed investigation reports that contain analyses and interpretations of findings and recommends possible courses of action.

Analyzes the applicable laws, rules, and regulations and develops standards and procedures.

Appears for and on behalf of ORES in administrative and legal proceedings, provides expert testimony, and represents ORES decisions and analysis in adjudicatory proceedings and administrative appeals.

May provide technical direction and guidance, analysis of technical training needs, and supervision or quality assurance review of work for lower-level staff.

Renewable Energy Siting Specialist 3

May perform all of the same duties as lower-level Renewable Energy Siting Specialists.

Supervises Renewable Energy Siting Specialists 1 and 2, including determining staff priorities, reviewing work for accuracy and completeness, training and orienting staff, providing necessary interpretation, advice and guidance to lower-level staff and providing technical assistance.

Assists or participates in larger, more complex technical service activities as a technical expert in a specific specialty area.

Supervises the siting permit application review work of lower-level professionals; develops and implements strategies to address major siting issues or to answer needs to prevent or control specific siting issues.

Represents the agency's decisions and analysis at administrative appeals.

Utilizes advanced expertise to perform the most technically complex aspects of permit application review, or to review aspects of applications that are novel and unprecedented.

Renewable Energy Siting Specialist 4

May perform all of the same duties as lower-level Renewable Energy Siting Specialists.

Serves as supervisor of an identified siting permit review specialty area or unit. Plans, assigns, schedules, reviews, and evaluates the work of Renewable Energy Siting Specialist 3 and lower-level staff, and trains staff.

Determines priorities in a specific specialty area or unit.

Provides technical support, leadership assistance, supervision, training, and guidance to all staff assigned in a specific specialty area or unit.

Prepares or oversees the preparation of testimony.

Coordinates workshops and development of outreach materials that provide technical and compliance assistance to the regulated community.

Appears for and on behalf of ORES in administrative and legal proceedings, provides expert testimony, and represents ORES decisions and analysis in adjudicatory proceedings and administrative appeals.

Minimum Qualifications

Renewable Energy Siting Specialist 1

Non-competitive: bachelor's degree and two years of experience* in environmental impact review or study of electricity, gas, water, telecommunications, or renewable energy projects such as solar and wind; development or analysis of land use policies for electricity, gas, water, telecommunications, or renewable energy projects; or specialized experience** related to energy transmission or production facilities.

Renewable Energy Siting Specialist 2

Non-competitive: bachelor's degree and three years of experience* in environmental impact review or study of electricity, gas, water, telecommunications, or renewable energy projects such as solar and wind; development or analysis of land use policies for electricity, gas, water, telecommunications, or renewable energy projects; or specialized experience** related to energy transmission or production facilities.

Renewable Energy Siting Specialist 3

Non-competitive: bachelor's degree and five years of experience*, including at least one year of supervisory experience, in environmental impact review or study of electricity, gas, water, telecommunications, or renewable energy projects such as solar and wind; development or analysis of land use policies for electricity, gas, water, telecommunications, or renewable energy projects; or specialized experience** related to energy transmission or production facilities.

Renewable Energy Siting Specialist 4

Non-competitive: bachelor's degree and seven years of experience*, including at least two years of supervisory experience, in environmental impact review or study of electricity, gas, water, telecommunications, or renewable energy projects such as solar and wind; development or analysis of land use policies for electricity, gas, water, telecommunications, or renewable energy projects; or specialized experience** related to energy transmission or production facilities.

*Substitution: A master's degree may substitute for one year of experience. A Ph.D. may substitute for two years of experience.

** Specialized experience must be in fields such as agriculture, anthropology, archeology, architecture, avian sciences, botany, civil/construction engineering, climate change, electrical power systems engineering, energy planning, environmental compliance, environmental engineering, environmental justice, fire protection, geography, geology, geotechnical engineering, hydrology, landscape architecture, mining engineering, noise/acoustics engineering, planning, real estate, seismology, socio-economics, terrestrial ecology, transportation/highway engineering, urban affairs and planning, utility engineering, wildlife biology/ecology, and zoning/land use.

Note: Classification Standards illustrate the nature, extent and scope of duties and responsibilities of the classes they describe. Standards cannot and do not include all of the work that might be appropriately performed by a class. The minimum qualifications above are those which were required for appointment at the time the Classification Standard was written. Please contact the Division of Staffing Services for current information on minimum requirements for appointment or examination.

Date: 3/2023

PH