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Berthoud, CO 80513
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Senior Water Quality Policy Specialist

Division/Department: Environmental Services/Water Quality
Reports to: Water Quality Department Manager
Location: Berthoud, CO
Type of Position: Full-time
Status: Exempt
Salary Range: \$91,988-\$117,026

GENERAL STATEMENT

The Senior Water Quality Policy Specialist plays a critical role in monitoring water quality regulations and representing the organization in various regulatory and policy forums and workgroups. This role has a deep understanding of Northern Water's activities related to water quality matters, permits held by the organization, and compliance with regulatory requirements. This senior-level position requires extensive knowledge of water quality regulations, active participation in regulatory workgroups, and effective communication with regulatory agencies as well as internal and external stakeholders involved in water quality regulatory matters.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Monitors water quality regulations at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Develops, maintains, and strengthens relationships with state, regional, and federal water quality policy administrators and policy makers, and other water quality stakeholders.
- Participates in regulatory workgroups and committees organized by the Colorado Water Quality Control Division.
- Assists with preparation of testimony for Colorado Water Quality Rulemaking Hearings.
- Represents the organization with the Colorado Water Quality Forum, the Water Quality Committee of the Colorado Water Congress and any other relevant group involved in the coordination of water quality policy and regulatory matters.
- Represents the organization in discussions and negotiations related to water quality regulatory affairs, including meetings with regulatory agencies and stakeholder groups.
- Reviews regulatory and policy proposals relevant to water quality, including technical aspects, coordinate internal comments with staff, legal counsel, as governmental affairs representative as part of the public comment process.
- Monitors comments from other stakeholders and participates in discussions to advocate for the organization's interests.
- Attends hearings, meetings, and other regulatory events, and reports back on discussions, decisions, and potential impacts on the organization.

- Stays informed about new issues and developments in water quality regulation that could affect the organization, and subsequently providing timely updates and recommendations to management and to the Board of Directors as needed.

OTHER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provides support to the organization in meeting water quality policy objectives.
- Collaborates with internal departments and legal counsel to promote alignment between regulatory requirements and organizational goals and initiatives.
- Assists in the development and implementation of strategies to address emerging water quality challenges and opportunities.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

Education

- Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science, Engineering, Public Policy, or related field required. Master's degree preferred.

Experience

- Must have a minimum of ten years of experience, preferably in Colorado, in water quality regulatory affairs, environmental policy, or working with environmental federal, state, and local environmental regulatory standards such as the Clean Water Act, and the Colorado Water Quality Control Act.
- General knowledge of water quality, water resource management, and environmental policy is required.

LICENSE, CERTIFICATE AND CREDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Valid driver's license

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Knowledge

- Comprehensive understanding of water quality regulations at local, state, and federal levels, with a focus on Colorado-specific regulations.
- Familiarity with the activities and permits of Northern Water related to water quality matters, including compliance obligations.
- Knowledge of regulatory processes, public comment procedures, and stakeholder engagement strategies.
- Understanding of the roles and responsibilities of regulatory agencies and other organizations involved in water quality oversight and management.
- Awareness of emerging issues and developments in water quality regulation that could impact or influence Northern Water.
- Technical understanding of water quality issues.
- Proficiency with M.S. Office Suite, use of collaborative platforms such as SharePoint, OneDrive and Google Drive, and general computer literacy.

Skills

- Strong communication skills, both written and verbal, with the ability to articulate complex regulatory concepts and their impact to water resource management to a diverse audience.
- Analytical skills, including the ability to review and interpret regulatory proposals, policies, and technical documents.

- Organizational skills, with the ability to manage and prioritize tasks effectively to meet deadlines and objectives.
- Collaboration skills, including the ability to work collaboratively with internal teams, external stakeholders, and regulatory agencies.
- Attention to detail, with a focus on accuracy and completeness in reviewing regulatory documents and preparing comments.

Abilities

- Navigate complex regulatory environments and effectively advocate for Northern Water's interests.
- Represent Northern Water professionally in regulatory meetings, hearings, and other forums.
- Adapt to changing priorities and respond effectively to emerging regulatory issues.
- Analyze and assess the potential impact of regulatory proposals on Northern Water and develop appropriate strategies in response.
- Stay informed about new developments in water quality regulations and apply this knowledge to support Northern Water's objectives.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Ability to occasionally walk/hike at high elevations around water features such as canals, reservoirs, and rivers/streams.
- Balancing, using legs to stabilize self on uneven surfaces, ditch sides, concrete abutments, etc.
- Ability to tolerate temperature extremes, intense sunlight, rain and/or snow, high winds, dust, pollen, etc.
- Ability to lift, drag, or push objects weighing up to 25 pounds.
- Requires prolonged sitting, standing, repetitive hand movement, and fine coordination in using a computer keyboard and mouse.
- Must be able to meet the physical requirements of a post job offer physical examination.

Reasonable accommodations will be made to enable qualified individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions of the job.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Maintains a personal appearance appropriate for job position and image of Northern Water.

This job description in no way states or implies that these are the only duties to be performed by this employee.

Northern Water provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, genetics, veteran status or other legally protected characteristics. Northern Water complies with applicable state and local laws governing nondiscrimination in employment in every location in which the company has facilities. Northern Water also prohibits any form of workplace harassment in accordance with these laws. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruiting, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation and training.