



United States Department of Agriculture

RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
www.ars.usda.gov

"Solving Problems for the Growing World"

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Announcement Number: ARS-D4E-0352
Demo

Position Title/Series/Grade:
Pipefitter
WG-4204-10

Promotion Potential: WG-10

Employment Type: Full-time
Temporary NTE 5/14/ 2005

Grade and Salary Range:
WG-10 \$20.48 - \$23.93 Per Hour

Location of Position:
Agricultural Research Service
Facilities Management and Operations Division
Operations and Maintenance Section
Beltsville, MD

Who Can Apply:
All U.S. Citizens

Opening Date: August 23, 2004

Closing Date: Open Until Filled (**First Cut-Off will be September 7, 2004, with subsequent cutoff dates every two weeks**)

For copies of vacancy announcements and/or application materials, please call (301) 504-1482. For additional information regarding employment opportunities, please visit <http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/hrd/jobs/apply.htm>.

Contact Information

Human Resources Specialist:
Susan Mooring
(301) 504-1360

DC Relay Service: (202) 855-1234 (TDD)

Send Applications to:
USDA, Agricultural Research Service
Human Resources Division
Attn: Susan Mooring
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Stop 5104
Beltsville, MD 20705-5104
Fax: (301) 504-1535
E-mail: scirecruit@ars.usda.gov

Applications must be postmarked, e-mailed or faxed by the closing date of the announcement. Applications received in Government envelopes will not be considered.

Please take advantage of the Application Package Checklist at the end of this announcement to ensure your application is complete.

For information about the organization and location, visit the location's website at .

Applications will also be accepted from USDA Surplus and Federal Displaced Employees in the commuting area.

Major Duties:

This position is located in the Operations and Maintenance Section , Pipe and Metal Shop in Beltsville, MD. The mission of the organization is to perform maintenance, construction, alterations, renovations and repairs to facilities at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). The primary purpose of this position is to install, repair, maintain and correct deficiencies and malfunctions on high pressure systems and equipment.

The incumbent will install, alter, repair and maintain high, medium and low pressure steam mains and distribution systems. The pressures of these systems are from 0 to 125 lbs., and furnish heat and processed steam to various buildings. Repairs and maintenance consists of replacing, rebuilding and maintaining pressure-reducing valves, steam traps, packing of valves, replacement of valve seats, diaphragms, flanges, gaskets, and seals. Maintains and installs radiators, heating coils, condensate return pump, boilers and water feed pumps.

Installs, repairs and maintains raw water lines from deep wells to water treatment plant, treated water mains from treatment to laboratories, offices, houses, barns and other buildings. Repairs, installs and maintains fire hydrants, frost-proof hydrants and control valves on the system; also installs wet taps on mains while under pressure. Installs, repairs and maintains sewage, sump, fuel, deep well circulating, centrifugal, sprayer and portable pumps for various specialized uses. Installs, repairs and maintains evaporative cooling systems for greenhouses, providing climatic conditions; also humidifiers. Installs, repairs, modifies and maintains equipment, such as autoclaves, sterilizers, distillation units, converters, and other steam heating equipment supporting Research Programs. Installs, repairs and maintains lavatories, misting systems and other similar equipment in laboratories and other buildings.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS: Incumbent works from ladders, scaffolds and platforms whether the systems and equipment are hard to reach. Is required to stand, stoop, bend, kneel and generally work in confined and uncomfortable positions. Frequently lifts and carries parts, pipes or other equipment in excess of 50 lbs.

WORKING CONDITIONS: Incumbent is subject to hot and cold temperatures both in and outside of tunnels and buildings. Work is performed in hot, wet, and muddy barnyards, and other unsanitary places. The incumbent is subject to burns, scalds, blowouts, and infections due to unsanitary conditions.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS: As a condition of employment, the incumbent must be available for on-call duty outside normal duty hours, in accordance with procedures established for control of such on-call duty. Employee will be required to carry a pager/cell phone for being contacted during emergencies, etc. Employee may be required to work weekends, holidays, or after hours when necessary. Employee may be required to report for duty during emergencies, critical periods, or during times when the Government is closed due to inclement weather.

FURTHER CONSIDERATION: This position is part of a work function currently undergoing a competitive sourcing study. Competitive sourcing studies generally take from 12-18 months. At the end of this time, a decision is made about whether the function will continue to be performed by federal employees or will be contracted out.

Qualifications Required: Your education and experience will be evaluated against all qualification requirements (basic and any additional requirements) listed below.

Basic Requirements

Applicants must have experience and/or training of sufficient scope and quality to perform the duties required. Applicants will be rated in accordance with their knowledge and skill in the job elements listed below:

1. Ability to do the work of a Pipefitter without more than normal supervision. **(SCREEN OUT)**
2. Knowledge of equipment assembly, installation, repair, etc.
3. Technical Practices (theoretical, precise, artistic)
4. Ability to interpret instructions, specifications, etc.. (includes blueprint reading)
5. Measuring and layout.
6. Ability to use and maintain tools and equipment.
7. Troubleshooting.

APPLICANTS WHO DO NOT MEET THE SCREEN-OUT ELEMENT WILL NOT RECEIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION. SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE: Applicants will be required to complete a supplemental questionnaire. The questionnaire **IS ATTACHED**. Applicants who fail to complete and return the questionnaire will **NOT** receive further consideration.

Additional Requirements:

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION IS REQUIRED.

CERTIFICATION/LICENSE REQUIREMENTS: Applicants **MUST** indicate possession of a valid motor vehicle operators license. Applicants who fail to submit proof of possession will not receive consideration for the position. As a condition of employment, selectee must maintain a valid driver's license.

Other Important Information

Benefits Package:

A Benefits Package is not authorized for this position. Additional information about Federal benefits can be obtained at www.usajobs.opm.gov/ei61.htm.

Veteran's Preference:

For further details, call the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) at 478-757-3000 or TDD 478-744-2299. Select General Information on the Federal Employment Policies and Procedures, and then Veterans Preference and Special Appointing Authorities for Veterans. Or visit their VetGuide website at www.opm.gov/employ/veterans/html/vetguide.asp.

Relocation Expenses:

Payment of relocation expenses will be determined in accordance with P&P 412.5, Recruitment and Retention Incentives and Other Special Pay, Sections 6 and 7, as amended by Bulletin 03-402, which may be found at: http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/hrd/staffing_recruit/reloweb.htm.

Financial Disclosure Requirement:

Federal employees are subject to prohibitions against officially dealing with outside organizations in which they have a financial interest. You may be required to submit a financial disclosure report if hired for this position.

False statements:

If you make a false statement in any part of your application, you may not be hired; may be fired after beginning work; or may be fined or jailed.

Optional Form 306, (Declaration for Federal Employment):

If you are selected for this position, you will be required to complete this form before an offer may be made.

USDA Surplus/Federal Displaced Employees:

USDA Surplus/Federal displaced employees must submit documentary evidence of eligibility. Well qualified surplus and displaced employees within the local commuting area will receive selection priority as provided by OPM regulations. Well-qualified means the applicant meets the basic qualification and eligibility requirements and all selective placement factors; is rated above minimally qualified against the KSAs or quality criteria; and is able to satisfactorily perform the duties of the position upon entry. Applicants must submit the following:

- 1) a copy of your RIF Separation Notice or Certification of Expected Separation or other documentation indicating that you are a surplus employee;
- 2) evidence of full performance level of current position;
- 3) a copy of your most recent performance appraisal; and
- 4) a copy of your most recent SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action, to verify reassignment eligibility.

Selective Service System:

Males over age 18 who were born after December 31, 1959, must have registered with the Selective Service System (or have an exemption) to be eligible for Federal employment.

Reasonable Accommodation:

Reasonable accommodation is provided to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, or have questions regarding reasonable accommodation and/or accessibility for any part of the application and hiring process, please contact the Disability Program Manager on 202-720-6161 or through the DC Relay Service on 202-855-1234 (TDD). The decision to grant reasonable accommodation is made on a case-by-case basis.

Civil Rights Policy Statement:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is an equal opportunity employer and provider. Discrimination is prohibited in all USDA programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center on 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD).

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE for
Pipefitter (Required as part of Job Application)**

Answers may be written on this form or on separate sheets of plain or lined paper.

ELEMENT 1: Ability to do the work of a Pipefitter without more than normal supervision.

1. List the kinds of piping systems you have assembled, installed, modified or repaired.

2. With regard to the above named piping systems, do you perform your duties:

- independently
- under close supervision
- with only technical supervision

Check only one statement

ELEMENT 2E: Knowledge of equipment assembly, repair, etc.

A. List the equipment which use high pressure steam that you are able to assemble or install.

B. List the equipment which use high pressure steam that you can repair.

C. Have any of your past work assignments included jobs which involved the use of technical manuals or other literature? If yes, please give examples.

ELEMENT 25E: Technical Practices.

1. Please give examples of situations in which you have had to modify or change equipment or systems in order to complete the job.

2. With regard to the above examples, did you perform those duties:

- independently
- under close supervision
- with only technical supervision

3. Check the statement that best reflects your ability. **Check only one statement.**

- Follows standard shop practices
- Contributes ideas based on knowledge
- Puts new ideas into practice

ELEMENT 75A: Ability to interpret instructions, building plans, sketches and blueprints.

1. Describe the most complex job you've had to perform in which you had to interpret instructions. What types of instructions did you use? For example, building plans, sketches, blueprints, work orders, or oral instructions.

2. Check the applicable statement that applies to you. **Check only one statement.**

- Plan and layout piping system from building plans, blueprints, and sketches
- Plan and layout less complex repair from work orders or sketches
- Checks design and layout sketches of others

ELEMENT 80A: Measuring and layout

1. List the types of measuring techniques you use in determining where and how to cut materials, and in layout of equipment.

2. Check statement that best describes you. *Check only one statement.*

Instructs others in the use of plan geometry and shop math to calculate angles, radii of piping layout, etc.

Uses shopmath and plane geometry to calculate angles, radii of piping under guidance.

Uses little shopmath and plane geometry to perform the simplest layout.

ELEMENT 81: Ability to use and maintain tools and equipment

1. List the most complex tools and equipment that you use and maintain.

2. Check the statement that best describes you. *Check only one statement.*

Instructs others in the use and maintenance of tools and equipment

Use and maintain common tools and equipment on own judgment and initiative.

Uses common tools and equipment under close supervision.

ELEMENT 96: Troubleshooting

1. Give examples of problems in you work as a Pipefitter that you have diagnosed, and the remedy that you used.

2. Check the most appropriate statement that best describes you training and experience. ***Check only one statement.***

Troubleshooting with assistance from supervisor

Troubleshooting on your own well enough to locate the malfunction.

Consulted by others in difficult troubleshooting.

Application Package Checklist

If application packages do not contain all of the requested information, you may lose consideration for the job. To help you ensure your application fully outlines your qualifications and eligibility for this position, please submit the following documentation.

- Optional Form 612 (Optional Application for Federal Employment), SF-171 (Application for Federal Employment), Resume, Curriculum Vitae, or other document outlining your qualifications (Go to <http://www.opm.gov/forms/html/of.asp> and scroll down to obtain the OF-612).

The following information is required of all applicants:

- Announcement number, title, and grade(s) of the position
- Full name, mailing address (including zip code) and day and evening phone numbers (with area code)
- Social security number
- Statement that you are a U.S. citizen (if not using the OF-612 or SF-171)
- Copy of DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) (if claiming veterans preference) (Visit the following web site for additional information:
- SF-15 (Application for 10-point Veteran's Preference) plus the support documentation required by this form (if claiming 10-point veterans preference) (Go to the web site at <http://www.opm.gov/forms/html/sf.asp> to obtain form.)
- Paid and non-paid work experience related to the position. For each period of work experience include:
 - ___ Job title
 - ___ Series/grade (if Federal employment)
 - ___ Duties and accomplishments
 - ___ Employer's name and address
 - ___ Supervisor's name and contact information
 - ___ Starting and ending dates of employment (at least month & year)
 - ___ Number of hours worked per week
 - ___ Salary
 - ___ Indicate if we may contact current supervisor/employer
- Other job related information, such as training courses (title & year); skills (e.g., other languages, computer software/hardware, tools, etc.)
 - ___ Certificates/licenses (current)
 - ___ Honors, awards, and special accomplishments
 - ___ Supplemental questionnaire if applicable (usually for Federal Wage System positions - WG, WL, WS)
- Copy of college transcripts (if qualifying all or in part on the basis of education for this position) (If you have non-conventional education, e.g., foreign study, continuing education units, life experience, etc., go to the web site at <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/SEC-II/s2-e4.htm#e4a> and look under the heading "Other Education" for information governing acceptability of this type of education.)

- Copy of SF-50 (Notification of Personnel Action) to verify possession of competitive civil service status (if you are a current or previous federal employee)
- Copy of most recent performance appraisal (if you are a current federal employee)
- Second copy of application package (if the position is open to candidates outside the federal government AND if you are a current federal employee or a candidate with reinstatement eligibility and wish to be considered under both merit promotion and competitive examining procedures).
- Support documentation for eligibility for special hiring authorities, such as disability, Peace Corps service, etc. (If you have questions about whether you are eligible for a particular hiring authority, please call the servicing HR specialist or visit the web site at <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/a2.htm> and scroll down to the subject heading, "Category".)
- Support documentation if you are a USDA surplus or federal displaced employee (See pertinent section under "Other Important Information" below.)
- Self-certification of typing speed (if required as a basic qualification for the position)
- While not required, a separate response to the required knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs listed under Specialized Experience) and Selective Placement Factor(s), if present, for this position may better highlight your specific qualifications for this position. (For an explanation of KSAs, go to the web site at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/careers/whatksa.html>).

If this is your first time applying for a federal job, or if you wish to view more detailed information about various aspects of applying for federal jobs, go to <http://www.opm.gov/forms/html/of.asp> and scroll down to access the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Optional Form 510.