# CAREER OPPORTUNITY

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
## FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION (FRA)

**ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER:** **FRA-15-158S**

**POSITION TITLE:** **Railroad Safety Inspector**
**(Signal and Train Control), GS-2121-12**
**Full Performance Level: GS-12**
**GS-12: $70,192 to $91,255 per annum**

**Note:** This position has special job requirements.
See page 3.

**POSITION LOCATION:** **Federal Railroad Administration**
**Office of Railroad, Safety**
**Western Region, R6**
**North Platte, NE geographical area**

**Who May Apply: FRA Wide (FRA status candidates and FRA candidates eligible for special appointing authorities. Candidates eligible for consideration under the Career Transition Assistance Program also may apply.)**

**OPENING DATE:** **07/06/2015**

**CLOSING DATE:** **07/19/2015**

**NUMBER AND TYPE:** **One Full-Time Permanent Position**

**Due to U.S. mail delays, it is recommended that applicants fax, use a professional delivery service (i.e., FedEx, UPS, etc.), email, or personally deliver applications to ensure timely receipt.**

**DOT is an Equal Opportunity Employer**

All qualified applicants will be considered regardless of political affiliation, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, or other non-merit factors. DOT provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify us. Decisions on granting reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

## Why Work For Us?

The Federal Railroad Administration's mission is to enable the safe, reliable, and efficient movement of people and goods for a strong America, now and in the future.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) promulgates and enforces rail safety regulations; consolidates government support of rail transportation activities; administers financial assistance programs; conducts research and development in support of improved railroad safety and efficiency, and national transportation policy, including improved intercity passenger service.

FRA is committed to fostering a diverse, highly skilled workforce capable of meeting or exceeding our strategic goals with efficiency, innovation, and a constant focus on better serving our customers.

You will serve as a Railroad Safety Inspector (Signal & Train Control). As an inspector you will enforce Federal safety and health regulations that are concern with signal and train control and highway crossing warning systems within an assigned territory. The objective of this position is to inspect for compliance with Federal laws, regulations, rules and standards and seeks corrections for unsafe conditions pertaining to the installation, operation, maintenance or manufacturing of railroad signal and train control and highway-rail crossing warning systems. The demands of the position require skills in evaluation, fact-finding, report writing; comprehension and application of technical and regulatory standards, as well as the ability to gain cooperation of individuals and organizations.

## Summary Of The Essential Job Functions: As a Railroad Safety Inspector (Signals and Train Control), you will be required to:

- Carry out periodic inspections of signals and train control systems in an assigned territory to ensure they are properly installed, operated, tested and maintained.
- Conduct investigations of accidents which result in railroad employee fatalities or possible signals and train control failures.
- Investigate complaints from railroad employees, the general public and governmental representatives regarding unsafe or hazardous signals and train control conditions.
- Provide technical advice and interpretation of regulations to railroad officials as necessary.
- Conduct safety meetings and training sessions for railroad employees on the proper signal installation, maintenance and safe operating practices for signals and train control systems.

## What Are The Minimum Qualifications For This Position?

You must have at least one year of specialized experience in or directly related to the essential job functions described above. For Federal employees this experience must have been at the next lower grade level. If you want us to consider experience you obtained outside the Federal Government, it must have been at that same level of complexity. The specialized experience must demonstrate:

- Broad knowledge of the railroad industry including economic and operating considerations and equipment;

- Knowledge of the general safety and health principles and practices applicable to the railroad industry;
- Knowledge of railroad accident investigation techniques; and
- Skill in written and oral communication.
- Knowledge of the design, installation, maintenance, testing or inspection of signals and train control systems; and
- Knowledge of applicable Federal laws and regulations pertaining to railroad signaling and train control systems; and
- Knowledge of locomotive braking systems and their relationship to and interface with train control or automatic train stop systems and braking distances.

## What Are The Desired Knowledge, Skills And Abilities For This Job?

See the Qualification Requirements listed above, in addition you must meet the following specialized experience:

- Applying your knowledge of the applicable Federal laws and regulations pertaining to railroad signal systems and highway-rail grade crossing warning systems.
- Analyzing data that can be used during the course of conducting railroad inspections, or used to determine probable cause of railroad related collisions, derailments, or other accidents/incidents.
- Writing and presenting information pertaining to signal and train control systems and highway-rail grade crossing active warning systems.

## Other Special Job Requirements

- If selected, you will be required to possess a valid State driver's license at all times while employed by the FRA in order to perform the duties of the position.
- If selected, you must pass a Drug Test prior to appointment unless you are presently employed in a DOT position that requires drug testing. You also will be subject to random drug testing while employed in this safety-sensitive position.
- The position requires extensive travel.
- This position is eligible for full-time telework, and the selectee must reside (or be willing to move at his/her own expense) within the geographic area of the duty location stated above. The duty location for a full-time telework is usually the residence or other approved telework site. The actual duty location is subject to approval by the Regional Administrator. Salary will be adjusted based on the duty location.

## How Will The Qualified Applicants Be Further Evaluated And Rated To Identify The Best Qualified?

If you are basically qualified for this job, you will be further evaluated on the quality and extent of your total accomplishments, experience and education related to the knowledge, skills and abilities listed below, if any. We also may consider your performance appraisal, awards, and relevant training. Your ranking will measure the degree to which your background matches the demands of this position.

## What Employee Benefits Do We Provide?

The Federal Government offers excellent benefits**,** flexible work schedules and family-friendly programs. You will receive paid annual leave and sick leave. Depending on whether the

position you are applying for is permanent or time limited, you will be eligible for retirement, health insurance, life insurance and Long Term Care insurance. A brief summary of the Federal benefits for permanent employees can be found at www.usajobs.opm.gov/EI61.htm.

## Before You Go Any Further, Here Are Some Other Things You Need to Know

- United States citizenship is required. (Proof of citizenship will be required to be shown upon appointment.)
- If you are a male between the ages of 18 and 26 or were born after December 31, 1959, certification is required at the time you are employed that you have registered with the Selective Service for the draft, unless Selective Service has approved a waiver for you.
- You must meet the qualification and time-in-grade requirements by the closing date of the announcement.
- If you can be appointed under a special appointment authority, please let us know on your application the special appointing authority for which you can be considered. You must submit proof of your eligibility for a special appointment authority.
- If the selection results in the promotion or reassignment of a current FRA Railroad Safety Inspector Trainee, travel and transportation expenses to the new duty location will be paid by the FRA in accordance with applicable Federal regulations. If the selection results in the reassignment of a current GS-12 FRA employee or a change to lower grade of a current FRA employee, transportation and travel expenses will NOT be paid.
- Pursuant to 5 C.F.R. Parts 2635.403 and 6001.104, all FRA employees (or spouses or minor children of FRA employees) are specifically prohibited from holding railroad stock (including shares of Berkshire Hathaway, Inc. which owns 100% of BNSF), whether held outright, in an IRA, or in a 401(k) or other plan. (Employees may hold a mutual fund which invests in railroad stocks, so long as the mutual fund does not invest more than 30% of its assets in such prohibited investments.) Employees having a prohibited financial interest must divest themselves of railroad stock within 90 days after their appointment to their positions. Neither the rule against holding railroad stock, nor the divestiture period, is in any way affected by the existence of re-employment rights which employees might have with railroad companies. Nor is there any monetary threshold for applicability of the rule against ownership of railroad stock; all dollar amounts are prohibited.
- FRA employees are prohibited from owning railroad stock, except, under certain circumstances, as part of a diversified mutual fund.
- If selected, you will be subject to the Standards of Ethical Conduct applicable to all DOT employees.
- TRAVEL EXPENSES: Travel and transportation expenses WILL NOT be paid.
- GOVERNMENT TRAVEL CARD REQUIREMENT: You must be able to obtain and retain a Government contractor-issued travel card to be used for official business as a condition of employment. If unable to obtain and/or retain a card, you may be subject to removal. Those who fail to meet this condition of employment will have our offer of employment rescinded.

## How To Apply For This Position

**1)** You may submit your current resume or any other application document you choose. Required information is listed in the section below labeled "Here's What Your Application Must Contain." Please be sure to indicate what grade level(s) you are applying for and the duty location.

**2)** You may submit the attached Voluntary Reassignment Application Form instead of an application or resume if you are eligible for consideration for voluntary reassignment to Railroad Safety Inspector, GS-12 positions under Article 11, Section D of the Memorandum of Agreement between the FRA and the American Federation of Government Employees, Local 2814 dated May 2000. If you are not eligible under the above Article 11, Section D, you must submit a resume or other application document.

**3)** For Federal applicants, a complete performance appraisal is required. It must be current – meaning it was issued to you within the past year – and it must be official – meaning it appraises your performance over a normal rating cycle in your present job and has been signed by your supervisor. If you are unable to submit your current performance appraisal, please tell us why. You also should submit a copy of your latest SF-50 "Notification of Personnel Action" that reflects career or career-conditional tenure. You do not need to submit a performance appraisal or an SF-50 if you are using the Voluntary Reassignment Application Form.

**4)** To be considered for selection priority under the Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP), you must submit appropriate certification that you are eligible. In addition, you must be determined to be well-qualified for the position. **Well-qualified applicant**: An eligible applicant who meets all qualifications, standards, and eligibility requirements for the position, including medical qualifications; minimum educational and experience requirements; selective placement factors; knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs); quality ranking factors; and any other special qualifying conditions, and is able to satisfactorily perform the duties of the position upon entry.

## HERE'S WHAT YOUR APPLICATION MUST CONTAIN

### JOB INFORMATION

- Announcement number and title of the position

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Full name
- Mailing address (with Zip Code)
- Social Security Number
- Country of citizenship (Most Federal jobs require United States citizenship)
- Veterans' preference (**Proof Required – Attach DD 214**)
- Federal employees & Reinstatement eligibles (**Attach SF-50**)
- Highest Federal civilian grade held

### EDUCATION

- High School name, city, state, and date of diploma or GED
- College/University names, city, and state
- Major(s)
- Type and year of degree(s) received

### WORK EXPERIENCE

(paid and unpaid)

- Job Title
- Duties and accomplishments
- Employer's name and address (indicate if we may contact your current supervisor)
- Supervisor's name and telephone number
- Starting and ending dates (month and year)
- Hours per week
- Salary and/or Grade (GS-or equivalent)

### OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

- Job-related training courses (title and year)
- Job-related skills (e.g., foreign languages, computer software/hardware, etc.)
- Job-related certificates and licenses (current only)
- Job-related honors, awards, and special accomplishments (e.g., memberships in professional or honor societies, leadership activities, public speaking, performance awards and publications) (give dates

**Privacy Act Requirements:** The forms referenced in this announcement are used to determine applicants' qualifications for the position and are authorized under 5 U.S.C. 3302 and 3361.

## Where To Send Your Application

- You may mail or deliver your application to the Federal Railroad Administration, Office of Human Resources, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Room W34-201, Washington, DC 20590.
- If you are faxing your application, please limit the application to **a maximum of 20 pages** and include a cover sheet. Our fax number is 202/493-6169. We will not accept applications faxed from a Federal Government fax machine. You may email your application to frajobs@dot.gov
- **ALL** applications must be in our office or postmarked by the closing date of the announcement.
- Applications mailed in a Government envelope will not be accepted.

**Questions?**

Call the Office of Human Resources at 202/493-6112 or TDD 202/493-6487 or 6488, or email at Shanina.McRae@dot.gov Please reference the announcement number so we can help you more efficiently.

Para mas informacion en espanol sobre este anuncio de vacante o cualquier otra information sobre empleo en las Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), por favor llame a Katherine Lavado-Arrington 202/493-6116. La FRA es un empleador con igualidad de oportunidad en el empleo, y que por medio de programas de accion afirmativa mantiene un ambiente multicultural. Todos los que soliciten recibiran igual consideracion, sin ninguna excepcion, por raza, color, religion, sexo, origin nacional, politica, inpedimento fisico o edad..

**ALTERNATIVE FORMATS**: If you need a copy of this announcement in an alternative format to accommodate a disability, please contact Marcella Mullins at Marcella.Mullins@fra.dot.gov, on 202/493-6114.

**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION:** If you are requesting reasonable accommodation in connection with applying for this vacancy, please contact Marcella Mullins as listed above.

**VOLUNTARY REASSIGNMENT APPLICATION FORM**

***This form may only be used by FRA employees who are eligible for consideration for voluntary reassignment to Railroad Safety Inspector positions at the GS-12 grade level under Article 11, Section D of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Federal Railroad Administration and the American Federation of Government Employees, Local 2814, dated May 2000. All other applicants must file complete application forms in accordance with the instructions in the vacancy announcement.***

**Vacancy Announcement Number:** _____

**Duty Location of Vacancy:** _____

**Name of Applicant:** _____

**Address:** _____

_____

**Telephone Number: Home** _____
**Office** _____
**Cell** _____

**Current Railroad Safety Inspector Discipline:** _____

**Current Duty Location:** _____

**Summary Rating of Last Performance Appraisal:** _____

**Date of Last Reassignment:** _____

**Reassigned From:** _____

**Reassigned To:** _____

**Entrance on Duty Date with the FRA:** _____

**Date Assigned to the GS-12 Grade Level:** _____

**Signature:** _____

**Date:** _____