Internship Opportunity Available
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5, Office of Water
Chicago, Illinois

Project # EPA Region 5, Water 2007–01

An internship is available at the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Water in Chicago, Illinois.

Project Background:

Federal and state governments are entrusted with protecting and maintaining the quality of waters of the United States through the regulatory framework of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The Clean Water Act requires that each state determine the appropriate and potential uses of the waters within the state, such as swimming, fishing and drinking water. Then the state develops standards to protect those uses, and a monitoring program to measure the health of the waters.

When monitoring shows water quality in a given lake or stream is not meeting the standards set forth, states develop an analysis to pinpoint the contributing sources of the problem, and determines actions that must be taken to reduce these problems. This often complex water quality analysis is called a total maximum daily load (TMDL) referring to the amount of pollutants contributed that will allow the water body to achieve standards.

The state TMDLs are reviewed, and where appropriate, approved at EPA by TMDL specialists with experience in a variety of disciplines such as geology, water chemistry, water quality modeling and hydrology. EPA then notifies the states of the action taken. These documents are then placed on the EPA website. The TMDL documents used for review must be cataloged and kept as an official record.

Specific Learning Opportunities: Learning opportunities may include how to

- Edit Web pages to place scientific documents on the Web for public access;
- Make scientific documents, text, tables and images web-ready and accessible for text readers (508 compliant) by converting from Word to PDF format using Adobe Acrobat;
- Mail notifications of official actions taken by EPA;
- File and archive documents.

Benefit to the Intern: During the project the intern will:

- Be introduced to concepts of EPA and State Water Quality Regulations and state/federal cooperative efforts to complete complex water chemistry and policy analyses.

- Interact with and learn from expert-level staff on a variety of technical policy issues related to TMDLs and other watershed issues,
- Gain experience manipulating and updating web pages that comply with EPA and federal web standards.
- Learn the constituents of official agency records.

Qualifications:

Required:

- Pre-baccalaureate degree undergraduate student
- Knowledge of Microsoft Word

Strongly Desired:

- Knowledge of Macromedia Dreamweaver MX, or experience with other web-editing software
- Knowledge of Adobe Acrobat
- Knowledge of use of accessibility features for text readers, such as a document bookmarks, tags etc.
- Environmental science background especially in water chemistry, sanitary engineering, or hydrology.

U.S. citizenship or lawful permanent resident status is preferred. The program is open to all qualified individuals without regard to race, sex, religion, color, age, physical or mental disability, national origin, or status as a Vietnam era or disabled veteran.

Background Information:

The project will be in the Watershed and Wetlands Branch, Office of Water in Chicago and supports the TMDL program for the six states in Region 5. The start date is estimated to be in July 2007. This project is for approximately 15 weeks. The intern does not become an EPA employee.

The Internship Program for EPA Region 5-Water is administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE). Please reference Project # EPA Region 5, Water 2007-01 when calling or writing for information. For additional information and application materials contact: Internship Program – EPA, Attn: Betty Bowling, ORISE – MS 36, P.O. Box 117, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831 Phone: (875)576-8503 FAX: (865)241-5219 e-mail: betty.bowling@orau.org

An application can be found at http://www.orau.gov/orise/edu/EPA/app-gugrgpd.pdf