

**Internship Program Opportunity  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Water  
Washington, D.C.**

**Project # EPA Water 2009-140**

An internship project is available at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds in Washington, DC. The internship will be served in the Wetlands Division, Wetlands and Aquatic Resources Regulatory Branch (WARRB).

**Project Description:** WARRB is responsible for wetland policy development, oversight of the Clean Water Act (CWA) section 404 program, and issues involving the jurisdictional scope of the CWA. A major issue in Section 404 implementation is the question of what wetlands and other waters are protected by the CWA's programs and permitting requirements in light of the U.S. Supreme Court decisions in *SWANCC* and *Rapanos*. These two cases raised issues regarding which waters that are not themselves navigable by watercraft are subject to CWA programs. WARRB's multi-disciplinary staff of policy analysts, scientists, and lawyers are involved in policy development at EPA Headquarters regarding the scope of "waters of the United States" protected by the CWA after these two landmark decisions, as well as with EPA regional offices on field implementation. Another important area of activity is developing additional guidance, technical assistance, training, and outreach materials to field staff and the public regarding the geographic scope of the CWA.

The Wetlands Division is looking for an intern to assist the WARRB staff who review and explain the scope of "waters of the US." Because the issue involves not only the section 404 program but also other CWA programs, the intern will have an opportunity to obtain a broad view of CWA issues and how its programs interrelate, and gain an understanding of wetlands protection programs.

**Specific Tasks:** The intern will be mentored by an EPA staff member that is part of a team involved in developing and assessing data aquatic resource impacts of the Supreme Court's decisions, and characterize existing aquatic resource literature regarding values and functions of different types of wetlands and other waters. A particular focus of these efforts will be to effectively explain the resulting information and their broader implications in materials developed for the general public, Congress, and the courts. The intern also will assist staff in assessing the impact of the Supreme Court's decisions in *Rapanos* and *Carabell* on difficult jurisdictional determinations that are referred to EPA Headquarters from the field for discussion. The intern may also be involved on an EPA team that deals with other areas of the section 404 program, including mountaintop mining and mitigation.

**Expected Results:** This project will provide excellent exposure to a broad range of legal, environmental and policy issues surrounding aquatic wetlands protection. The intern will have the opportunity to learn and participate in the public comment, regulatory, and outreach activities related to EPA's water programs. Through this program, the intern will have a better understanding of how EPA implements a variety of regulatory and non-regulatory programs to increase understanding and positive perception of the functions and values of aquatic resources. Specific products are likely to include memoranda and outreach documents explaining the scientific and legal

underpinnings of the Section 404 program and “waters of the US,” an assessment of the data on aquatic resource impacts of the Supreme Court’s decisions in *Rapanos* and *Carabell*, and materials tailored to a general audience on the implications of federal court opinions regarding the scope of “waters of the US.”

**Intern Qualifications and Skills:** Applicants should have received a bachelor’s and master’s degrees in conservation ecology, biology, environmental studies, science journalism, or a JD with course work relevant to environmental law within four years of the desired starting date. The applicant should have a strong interest in wetlands ecosystems and related regulatory programs. Familiarity with the Clean Water Act section 404 program is desirable, as is experience explaining scientific concepts for the layman audience both orally and in writing. GIS skills also are helpful. Also important is an enthusiasm for fast-moving high-profile issues in a multi-disciplinary environment.

**Stipend and Length of Appointment:** The appointment will initially be for full-time up to one year, and may be renewed based on the needs of EPA and available funding. The stipend will be based on degree level and experience.

The EPA mentor for this project is Donna Downing of the Wetlands Division. Her email address is: [downing.donna@epa.gov](mailto:downing.donna@epa.gov).

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. U.S. citizenship or lawful permanent resident status is preferred (but can also hold an appropriate visa status, however, an H1B visa is not appropriate). The intern must show proof of health and medical insurance. **The intern does not become an EPA employee.**

The Internship Program for EPA Water is administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. Please reference Project # EPA Water 2009-140 when calling or writing for information. For additional information and application material contact: Internship Program - EPA Water, Attn: Betty Bowling - MS 36, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, P.O. Box 117, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831 Phone: (865) 576-8503 Fax: (865) 241-5219 e-mail: [betty.bowling@ornl.gov](mailto:betty.bowling@ornl.gov).

*Sam Bryant serves as the EPA Office of Water internship program coordinator. His email address is [bryant.samuel@epa.gov](mailto:bryant.samuel@epa.gov).*

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