

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

**Project # EPA Water 2008-114**

**Discharge Permit Quality Reviews**

An internship is available at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Wastewater Management, Water Permits Division.

**About the Program:** EPA partners with authorized states to develop, support, and manage the National Permit Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program to protect and restore the environmental health of the nation's waters.

In 1972, Congress created the Clean Water Act (CWA) to address serious pollution problems affecting the nation's rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. The central objective of the Act is to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation's waters." The CWA is a comprehensive set of programs and requirements designed to address the complex problems caused by a wide variety of pollution sources. One of the cornerstones of the CWA is the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System which regulates the discharge of pollutants into the waters of the United States. Under the CWA, NPDES permits are issued to point source dischargers by either EPA or an authorized state. Typical point sources regulated under the NPDES program include municipal and industrial storm water, municipal wastewater systems, industrial and commercial facilities, and concentrated animal feeding operations.

The Water Permits Division (WPD) within the Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) leads and manages the NPDES permit program in partnership with EPA regional offices, states, tribes, and other stakeholders. To ensure the NPDES permit program is effective, WPD performs a wide variety of activities, including: shaping the direction of the national NPDES permit program; producing policies and regulations; developing technical and administrative tools to support permit issuance; tracking and managing critical information related to permit issuance, permit quality, and point source pollution abatement; overseeing the programs managed by the states and regional offices; and providing access to information on NPDES permitting to promote increased awareness and involvement in the NPDES permitting process.

**Project Description:** WPD is seeking an individual with strong analytical and computer skills interested in the Program Management, Analysis, and Data (PMAD) Team in the State and Regional Branch. The individual will experience, first hand, how EPA plans and implements a national regulatory program. The intern will gain a better understanding, support, and help to shape the future direction of the NPDES permit program. The intern will be mentored by the PMAD Team.

**Specific Tasks:** The intern will be involved with the national NPDES permit program through research, drafting research summaries, assisting with communication and outreach efforts, participating in strategic planning, and assisting with data management. The intern will be in a team environment and have the opportunity to apply his or her scientific, analytic and problem solving skills. The intern will be assigned to selected projects that may range from one-day turn-around to long term products. One project, for example, is to support the development of a program to collect and analyze data from states and EPA

regions in order to assess the quality of permits, national consistency, and identify any barriers to permit quality and issuance. Another project may be in support of the development of electronic and other tools that will aid in the tracking and analysis of data related to permit quality. The intern will have ample opportunities to be involved in analytical and policy projects that contribute to the long-term management of the NPDES program.

**Expected Results:** The intern will learn the processes and procedures used to implement a national regulatory program. The individual will participate in and contribute to, projects that will increase the effectiveness of the NPDES program, and will contribute to the development of selected programmatic areas.

**Intern Qualifications and Skills:** Applicants should have either a bachelor's or a master's degree in environmental science, environmental engineering, agricultural engineering, chemistry, biology, toxicology, public administration, information technology, or related areas, and should demonstrate an interest in water quality, wastewater management, watershed protection, and/or public administration. The highest degree must have been received within four years of the desired starting date, or completion of all requirements for the degree should be expected prior to the starting date. The candidate should possess good writing and analytical skills, be creative and technologically savvy, and have the ability to perform in a fast-paced, team environment. In addition, the candidate must have experience with the MS Office Suite of applications and be comfortable with a wide variety of office computer applications, including word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation graphics. Experience with database development and management is desirable.

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.**

**Stipend and Length of Appointment:** The appointment is for one year and may be extended for up to three years. The annual stipend will range from \$43,000 to \$50,000 depending on educational level, experience, and level of participation. Housing, transportation or relocation costs will not be paid by EPA. The project may have travel to offsite meetings and conferences which may be reimbursed in accordance with established policy.

The EPA mentor for this project is Sarita Hoyt. She can be contacted at (202) 564-1471 or at [hoyt.sarita@epa.gov](mailto:hoyt.sarita@epa.gov). The internship location will be at the EPA East Building, 1201 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004.

**The Internship Program for EPA Water is administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE). Please reference Project # EPA Water 2008-114 when calling or writing for information. For additional information and application material contact: Internship Program - EPA Water, Attn: Betty Bowling - MS 36, ORISE, P.O. Box 117, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831 Phone: (865) 576-8503 Fax: (865) 241-5219 e-mail: [betty.bowling@orau.org](mailto:betty.bowling@orau.org).**

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

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