

**INTERNSHIP PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY  
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
OFFICE OF WATER  
Washington, D.C.**

**Project # EPA Water 2008-115**

***NPDES Legal Authority Analysis***

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

**About the Program:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) partners with authorized states to develop, support, and manage the National Permit Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program to protect and restore the nation's waters. EPA's vision is for every watershed in the United States to be free from impairments caused by industrial, municipal, and other point source discharges.

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 establishes 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 (CAFOs).

**Project Description:** The Water Permits Division (WPD) is seeking an intern interested in participating on a team of legal and technical staff who analyze and evaluate state and federal implementation of the NPDES program under the Clean Water Act. This project is with the Legal and Policy Team.

In 2003, EPA initiated the "Permitting for Environmental Results" (PER) project to gather and analyze information about the operation of the national NPDES program and to establish a management system that will enable EPA and its partner states to target resources to achieve the greatest environmental benefit. The current phase involves an analysis of the adequacy of states' NPDES legal authorities. It will be important that the intern have the ability to read, understand, and critically analyze legal and regulatory language.

**Specific Tasks:** The intern will participate on a team that conducts legal reviews of state NPDES legal authorities. State legal authorities will also be reviewed when state's seek to modify their NPDES programs, as some state's are doing as they expand their NPDES program for CAFOs. In addition, the intern will interact with EPA legal staff to address issues that arise on an ongoing basis, such as petitions to withdraw state NPDES program approval, clarifying what activities come under NPDES regulatory purview and providing support to rulemaking efforts.

**Expected Results:** The intern will have a hands-on opportunity to learn how national environmental laws are implemented, and will become familiar with the processes and procedures used to implement a national regulatory program. The intern will contribute to the assessment of how states and EPA

implement the Clean Water Act and will be involved in identifying opportunities to enhance the NPDES program. The intern's contribution to the implementation of the Permitting for Environmental Results project will help establish a baseline of information for future analyses. This project may involve some travel to EPA Regions or NPDES authorized states.

**Intern Qualifications and Skills:** An applicant should be a law student in their final year or a law school graduate with background in environmental policy or environmental science; have excellent analytical and writing skills; and be able to be part of a fast-paced, team environment. Experience with MS Word, comfort with a wide variety of office computer applications, and ability to use presentation graphics (e.g., PowerPoint) are also preferred. Excellent communication skills (oral and written) are essential.

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 expected to be for one year and may be renewed for a maximum of three years, depending upon funding availability. The annual stipend will range from \$50,000 to \$58,000, depending on experience. The stipend will be prorated on the actual level of participation. Housing, transportation, and relocation costs will not be paid.

*The EPA mentor for these projects is Louis Eby. He can be contacted at [Eby.Louis@epa.gov](mailto:Eby.Louis@epa.gov) or at (202) 564-6599.*

**The Internship Program for EPA Water is administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE). Please reference Project # EPA Water 2008-115 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 email:[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>.