

Internship Program Opportunity
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 8
Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation
Denver, Colorado

Project # EPA Water 2008-116

An internship is available at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 8 office in Denver, Colorado.

Project Description: An internship is available with the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Team. The TMDL team is in the Ecosystems Protection Program (EP) of the Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation. The team is in the same unit as the monitoring and assessment team and the standards team. Other programs in EP include wetlands protection, tribal water quality, nonpoint source, groundwater and source water, strategic planning, and water quality coordination.

The TMDL Team is responsible for leading Region 8's TMDL program and supporting related watershed protection activities. The mission of the program is to work towards healthy watersheds by assisting states, territories, and tribes to meet their water quality standards. Under the program established by Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, states identify impaired waterbodies and develop TMDLs for these waters. A TMDL specifies the amount by which a specific pollutant must be reduced to meet water quality standards and allocates pollution control responsibilities among the sources in the watershed. EPA reviews and approves the lists of impaired waters and develops TMDLs where necessary. TMDLs are a critical analytic underpinning for watershed decisions and can serve to integrate solutions to water quality problems from point and nonpoint sources and to protect drinking water sources, wetlands, and other aquatic resources.

Specific Tasks: The intern will be assigned to EPA Region 8, Denver. The intern will be involved in researching and evaluating data bases that could be considered for a program like the TMDL program in which status and progress of draft and final documents need to be tracked. The research will involve reviewing Region 8 TMDL approvals to identify appropriate information that is then entered into the existing National TMDL Tracking System (NTTS); evaluating quality assurance of the Region 8 portion of NTTS; and making revisions so that it accurately portrays all TMDL approvals to date as well as the status of impaired water bodies in Region 8 for strategic planning and measurement purposes. Based on initial research, the intern may assist in developing tools to track status of environmental assessment units as assessment and restoration milestones are achieved. Additional research could include review of data bases used by other EPA Regions for possible tailoring to Region 8's needs. The following activities will help the intern in his or her analysis of the current EPA situation, specifically focusing on water, and developing methods for environmental tracking:

- Comparing hard copy and data base information to evaluate accuracy of environmental information from different sources and make appropriate revisions;
- Entering TMDL approval information into NTTS to understand the Region 8 TMDL approval process and current tracking issues;
- Entering water body delisting information into NTTS to determine how Region 8 reports on strategic targets;
- Participating in researching the state ADB files submitted for the 2008 Integrated Report and coordinating with EPA Headquarters and contractors to get the 2008 information into NTTS and NAD;

- Participating in developing strategic targets based on NITS and projecting TMDL development pace to provide annual measures;
- Participating in a Regional group to determine Regional capability to answer questions about the status of the environment and water quality programs using existing databases.
- Developing a matrix comparing Region 8 state assessment methodologies; and
- Tracking a watershed permitting pilot project in Wyoming which may also have elements of watershed pollutant trading.

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Expected Results: This internship will provide exposure to a broad range of environmental and policy issues surrounding aquatic resource protection and restoration. Through formal training, participation in program teams, and self-tutoring, the intern will become proficient in current TMDL EPA policy, strategic planning and targeting to measure progress, and EPA data bases. The intern will have the opportunity to develop tools for tracking progress toward environmental restoration and present the results of the projects listed above in briefings for management and in other documents.

Intern Qualifications and Skills: The applicant should have received a bachelor's or master's degree in the environmental sciences or a related field within four years of the desired starting date. Knowledge of watershed planning and experience with federal and/or state agencies on environmental issues is advantageous. The ability to understand and organize scientific issues and develop written materials based on interpretation of environmental data is highly desirable. Experience with data management systems such as Excel spread sheets and Oracle data bases will be important. Excellent oral and written communication skills, ability to perform collaboratively in a team environment with diverse people, and strong self initiative are essential. The intern must be able to perform under tight deadlines, respond quickly to unanticipated requests, juggle multiple projects, find solutions with minimal assistance and be comfortable in a cubicle office environment.

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 Tenure: The appointment will initially be full-time for a one year period and may be renewed for up to two additional years depending on funding. The annual stipend will range from \$35,000-\$45,000 depending on level of education and experience.

The EPA contact person for this project is Karen Hamilton. Her e-mail is hamilton.karen@epa.gov. The mentor is Jim Ruppel. His e-mail is ruppel.james@epa.gov.

The Internship Program for EPA Water is administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE). Please reference Project # EPA Water 2008-116 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@orau.org

Sam Bryant serves as the EPA Office of Water internship program coordinator. His email address is bryant.samuel@epa.gov.

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