

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

Project # EPA Water 2008-118
Water Quality Team

An internship is available at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Wastewater Management (OWM). The appointment will be served with the Water Permits Division (WPD).

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 (NPDES) 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 in order to ensure that water quality standards are met. 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 State and Regional Branch of the Water Permits Division is primarily responsible for working with the Regions and States on development and interpretation of the NPDES regulations. The branch works on areas related to the development and implementation of water quality-based requirements in NPDES permits, including: watershed-based permitting approaches; water quality-based effluent limitations; nutrient criteria implementation; mercury discharges and criteria, whole effluent toxicity; NPDES aspects of TMDL implementation; and permit issuance and training.

Project Description: WPD is looking for an individual who is interested in being involved as an environmental scientist or environmental engineer in a national environmental program. The individual will experience, first hand, how EPA plans and implements a national regulatory program by being part of a team that is developing national policies, regulations, technical guidances and program oversight. The intern will participate on the Water Quality Team which develops materials to help implement guidance with respect to NPDES. The team also guides the consistent and effective translation of water quality goals and standards into permit limits and conditions. This is accomplished through a watershed approach wherever practicable.

Specific Tasks: The intern will provide assistance on issues related to implementing water quality-based requirements in NPDES permits. The intern may be involved in conferring and coordinating with appropriate program offices in order to incorporate all program office concerns into guidance, policy and regulation. The intern should maintain an awareness of private and other governmental interests and use this awareness to help determine the most effective manner to achieve environmental goals. The intern will participate in groups that develop guidance and regulations for

implementation of the NPDES permit, storm water, and pretreatment programs. He/she may be involved in drafting guidance portions of the regulations and guidance documents, and reviewing them with interested parties. The intern may also participate in meetings, conferences, briefings, etc. with representatives of EPA headquarters, regional staff, other federal and state agencies, local and tribal governments, the regulated community and the public concerning the water quality-based permitting issues.

Expected Results: The intern will learn the processes and procedures used to implement a national regulatory program. He/she will conduct analyses, develop summary reports, and assist with development of a variety of tools and materials to provide guidance to regulators and the regulated community that will increase the effectiveness of the NPDES program as it relates to protection of water quality and watershed management.

Intern Qualifications and Skills: Applicants should have received a bachelor's degree in environmental science, environmental engineering, chemistry, biology, toxicology, or a related field within four years of the desired starting date. He/she should demonstrate an interest in the area of water quality, wastewater management, or watershed protection. Applicants must possess good writing skills, have the ability to perform in a fast-paced team environment, and have experience with a variety of office computer applications.

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 include travel to offsite meetings and conferences which may be reimbursed in accordance with established policy.

The EPA mentor for this project is Marcus Zobrist at the Office of Water, Office of Wastewater Management, Water Permits Division. He can be contacted at (202) 564-8311 or at zobrist.marcus@epa.gov. The project location is 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 2008-118 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>.