

**Internship Program Opportunity
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Atlanta, GA**

Project # EPA Water 2008-108

Rapanos Effects on Federal Jurisdiction and Water Quality

An internship project is available at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA), Wetland Regulatory Section in Atlanta, Georgia.

About the Program: EPA partners with the states and the U.S. Corps of Engineers (USACE) to manage water under the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permitting program to protect and restore the environment health of the nation's waters.

In 1972, Congress created the 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.

EPA is authorized under CWA, Section 404 to co-implement the dredge and fill permit program. One of EPA's responsibilities under Section 404 is to define the extent of CWA jurisdiction for waters of the United States. Recently *Rapanos et ux., et al. v. United States* (6th Cir. June 19, 2006, No. 40-1034) has been interpreted by the US Army Corps of Engineers and EPA with joint guidance developed and issued by these agencies. Each USACE District field office either makes jurisdictional determinations for properties upon request by the land owner or their representative or they approve jurisdictional determinations submitted by a land owner or their representative.

The EPA Office of Water provides oversight regarding the performance of USACE waters of the United States delineation program which includes monitoring the newly established determination methods and the ways it may affect the water quality of the United States.

Project Description: EPA Region 4 is seeking an individual who is interested in being trained to support efforts that will strengthen jurisdictional determinations made consistent with the Rapanos guidance. Specifically, EPA is looking for an individual to join a dynamic team focused on how to use environmental data to better inform EPA decision makers on options for improving 404 jurisdictional determinations, permitting/enforcement program management and strengthen EPA's partner relationships.

Specific Tasks: The intern may be involved in several types of projects which may include conducting assessments of existing characterizations for various District determinations focusing on the effects of Rapanos on the new extent of jurisdictional boundaries, and, or pollutant or pollution impacts resulting from changes to the extent CWA jurisdictional waters. The intern may be involved in investigating the available technical information refining the definition, significant nexus to traditionally navigable waters and extent of waters of the United States, states, Commonwealth, and tribes; potential water quality impairments

that may result from implementation of Rapanos guidance. The intern may also be involved in the investigation of water quality standard interrelationships among the organisms and between organisms, and between them, and other living and non-living (pollution or pollutants) aspects of ephemeral, intermittent, and “navigable-in-fact” waters throughout Region 4’s jurisdiction. Other investigations could focus on hydrologic parameters, energy passed through food-chains and food-webs, cycling and recycling of nutrients, and, or the movement of carbon as organic matter, photosynthesis and respiration, or exchange between the biosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere. Investigations could include one, several, or different components listed above as it relates to a drainage pattern’s effect on the chemical, physical or biological integrity of “navigable-in-fact” waters.

Expected Results: As the primary federal agency responsible for jurisdictional determination methodology and the final word on whether the placement of dredge or fill material into waters of the United States is acceptable, the USACE delineations are a focal point for the national water program. The intern will gain an appreciation for all facets of the CWA implementation. In addition, the intern’s contributions will help to improve the EPA’s ability to define extent of waters of the United States, pollution related issues, and result in better allocation of resource investments.

Intern Qualifications and Skills: Applicants should have received a master’s degree in hydrology, environmental engineering, aquatic ecology, aquatic biology, forestry, or life science field of study and management within four years of the desired starting date, or completion of all requirements for the degree should be expected prior to the starting date. Applicants should possess excellent writing, oral and analytical skills, be creative and technology savvy and have the ability to perform in a fast-paced team environment. In addition, applicants must have experience with Microsoft Word and Excel, be comfortable with a wide variety of office computer applications and have the ability to use presentation graphics.

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 is for one year and may be renewed for a maximum of three years depending on funding availability. A period shorter than twelve months may also be possible, but must be for at least four months. The annual stipend will be up to \$49,180, depending on educational level and level of participation. EPA will fund an additional \$3,000 towards medical insurance through the ORISE program. Housing, transportation and relocation costs will not be paid.

The EPA mentor for this project is Mark Nuhfer. He can be contacted at (404) 562-9390 or at nuhfer.mark@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 2008-108 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

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>.