

**INTERNSHIP PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Washington, D.C.**

Project EPA Water 2008-111

Rural Water Permit Programs

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.

The central objective of the Clean Water Act (CWA) is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation's rivers, lakes, and coastal 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 NPDES program 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 EPA's Office of Wastewater Management leads and manages the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program in partnership with EPA Regional Offices, states, tribes, and other stakeholders. WPD activities include: shaping the direction of the national NPDES permit program; producing policies and regulations; developing technical and administrative tools to support permit issuance; 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 NPDES permitting information to promote increased awareness and program involvement.

Project Description: The intern will be mentored by the Rural Branch which is part of WPD. The individual will experience, first hand, how EPA plans and implements the NPDES program.

Specific Tasks: The intern will participate on a team finalizing regulations for regulating discharges from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and developing guidance, training, and outreach materials. The intern will also support the branch in putting together a compendium of CAFO water quality-related research and may be involved on other Rural Branch projects. In addition, depending on interests and qualifications, the intern will have opportunities to identify other projects that may include the agricultural sector program.

Expected Results: As part of a team responsible for management of the NPDES program, the intern will learn the processes and procedures used to implement the NPDES national regulatory program. He/she 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 at least a bachelor's or a master's degree in environmental science/engineering, environmental policy, natural resources management, hydrology, agricultural science/engineering, economics, biology, chemistry, or related areas within four years of the desired starting date. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in rural issues, water quality, wastewater management, watershed protection, and/or policy. The candidate should possess good writing and communication skills, be a creative, be a self starter, and have the ability to multi-task and perform in a fast-paced, collaborative, team environment. In addition, he or she must have experience with MS Applications such as Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, and Adobe Acrobat. Some database experience 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 Martha Segall. She can be contacted at (202) 564-0723 or at segall.martha@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 2008-111 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@ornl.gov.

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

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