

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

Project # EPA Water-2008-117

Outreach and Communications for the Stormwater Program

An internship project is available at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Wastewater Management (OWM).

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. Its vision is for every watershed in the U.S. to be free from impairments caused by industrial, municipal, and other point source discharges. One of the cornerstones of the Clean Water Acts (CWA) is the 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. Point sources regulated under the NPDES program include municipal wastewater systems, industrial and commercial facilities, and concentrated animal feeding operations. In 1987, Congress added provisions to the CWA that directed EPA to regulate stormwater from municipalities, industrial facilities, and construction sites. The stormwater program is now the largest part of the NPDES permitting program and covers approximately 500,000 entities across the United States. The program has been implemented in two phases, the first becoming effective in 1992 and the second in 2003. The second phase requires over 5,000 municipalities to develop comprehensive stormwater management plans and also covers approximately 200,000 construction sites between one and five acres in size each year. EPA has been working to help states and municipalities implement this complex and far-reaching program. Effective outreach and communication is an essential tool to achieving this goal.

Project Description: OWM is looking for an intern who is interested in the fast-paced and dynamic field of outreach and communications and has interest and/or experience with urban stormwater issues. The intern will experience, first hand, how EPA communicates with major constituencies and the general public to implement the stormwater programs. The intern will participate on outreach campaigns for EPA's NPDES stormwater program, will be involved in managing the NPDES program's cutting-edge Web site (which was EPA's first dynamically driven Web site), and will be involved with current program and policy issues.

Specific Tasks: Activities may include participating in the development of new web-based tools for the stormwater program, participation in the enhancement and maintenance of the NPDES web site, and in developing training or outreach efforts aimed at specific stormwater constituencies. The intern will also be involved in researching and answering questions about the NPDES program that are received electronically, participating in the development and implementation of outreach programs for construction site operators to increase compliance with new storm water requirements, and in planning and organizing conferences. In addition, the intern will be involved in a variety of current program and policy issues and would assist the stormwater team through research and analysis to bring these issues to conclusion.

Expected Results: The intern will learn how to incorporate modern tools to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of this national program and will contribute to the planning and development of major outreach campaigns. The intern will also learn some of the program, policy and legal aspects of the stormwater program and gain an understanding of relationship between the policy process and the outreach and communications process.

Intern Qualifications and Skills: Applicants should have received a bachelor's degree or higher in communications, marketing, environmental studies, or a related field within four years of the desired starting date, or completion of all requirements for the degree should be expected prior to the starting. Knowledge of the Clean Water Act and EPA's stormwater program, and experience with website operations, design, and maintenance would be considered strongly in the selection process. Strong writing and research skills, creative and technology savvy, the ability to perform in a fast-paced, team environment, experience with the MS Office suite are 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 renewed depending on funding. The stipend will range from \$43,000 to 48,000 depending on degree and experience.

The EPA mentor for this project is Nikos Singelis. He can be contacted at (202) 564-0692 or at singelis.nikos@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 2008-117 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

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.ornl.gov/orise/edu/EPA/app-gugrgpd.pdf>.