

**OFFICE OF WATER
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POSTDOCTORAL PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES
Washington, D.C.**

EPA Water-2004-18

Project Description: The Health and Ecological Criteria Division (HECD) is one of three divisions in EPA's Office of Science and Technology. The National Nutrient Program is responsible for the development of the scientific and technical support for nutrient management in the nation's waters, including policy, guidance, and criteria development. HECD has program responsibilities under the Clean Water Act. HECD provides sound science for policy and regulation of pollutants in the waters of the United States. HECD develops national criteria for water quality protection and is also responsible for providing scientific, technical, and staff support for approval, adoption, and implementation of water quality standards. HECD is responsible for bringing sound science to bear on policy decisions that affect the quality of the Nation's waters.

Specific Tasks: Activities that may be involved include conducting analysis of and updating the National Nutrient Database with relevant data from national, state, tribal, regional, local and academic datasets, developing and maintaining databases, conducting statistical analysis comparing the previous database with newly collected updated data. Other activities may include identifying statistical analyses that may be used with the database for criteria development using approaches other than the percentile approach that would be useful for state/tribal/territorial agency personnel to use in their own analysis of nutrient criteria data. There will also be opportunities to interact with agency scientists and policy makers to bring sound science to national water quality policy and to be trained in HECD's National Nutrient Program.

Expected Results: This project will provide excellent exposure to a broad range of environmental and policy issues about water quality protection, especially with regards to nutrients and co-occurring stressors, will provide opportunities to be an integral part of EPA's National Nutrient Team and to learn how to develop criteria and provide scientific and technical support to states/tribes/territories, and EPA Regions for nutrient criteria development. There will also be an opportunity to interact with the Water Quality Standards program and to learn about the adoption and implementation of nutrient criteria into water quality standards.

Postdoctoral Candidate Qualifications and Skills: Applicants should have received a doctoral degree in environmental sciences, limnology, ecology, hydrology, landscape ecology, or a related field, within three years of the desired starting date, or completion of all requirements for the degree should be expected prior to the starting date. Candidates with environmental or ecological modeling experience are preferred. The applicant should have knowledge of water resource policy and water quality issues and the ability to understand and organize scientific issues and develop written materials based on their interpretation. Experience in coordinating projects and establishing partnerships among federal and state agencies and other organizations is highly desirable. An applicant must also have prior experience with relational databases and experience with Oracle or other web-capable database systems and with large dataset statistical analysis would be beneficial. The successful candidate will also have good communication skills, with the ability to effectively communicate the results of complicated scientific analyses to non-scientific audiences as well as the ability to perform under tight deadlines and on multiple projects.

Stipend and Tenure: The appointment will initially be for 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 \$52,000-\$62,000 depending on experience. The appointee will not be considered an employee of EPA.

The EPA contact person for this project is Amy Parker. Her e-mail is parker.amy@epa.gov. For more information about the National Nutrient Program, see <http://www.epa.gov/ost/standards/nutrient.htm>

The Internship Program for EPA Water is administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. Please reference Project # EPA Water 2004-18 when calling or writing for information. For additional information and application material contact: Internship Program – EPA Water, Attn: Betty Bowling, Science and Engineering Education – MS 36, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, P.O. Box 117, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831 Phone: (865) 576-8503 Fax: (865) 241-5219 e-mail: bowlingb@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>