

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

**EPA Water-2004-20
*Outreach and Communications***

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.

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 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.

Project Description: The EPA Office of Wastewater Management is looking for a postgraduate who is interested in the fast-paced and dynamic field of outreach and communications. The intern will experience, first hand, how EPA communicates with major constituencies and the general public to implement educational and regulatory programs. The intern will participate on outreach campaigns for EPA's NPDES permitting 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 have the opportunity to assist in developing electronic tools for improving the operation of the NPDES program.

Specific Tasks: Activities may include participating in the development of new Web-based tools for NPDES permittees, in the development and implementation of state electronic permit applications, and in the maintenance of the NPDES Web site in compliance with agency Web requirements. The intern may 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.

Expected Results: The intern will learn how to incorporate modern tools to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of this national permit program and will contribute to the planning and development of major outreach campaigns.

Intern Qualifications and Skills: Applicants should have a bachelor's degree or higher in communications, marketing, environmental studies, or a related field and should demonstrate knowledge of Web site operations, design, and maintenance. 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, and comfort with a wide variety of office computer applications, including word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation graphics is desirable.

Stipend and Tenure: The appointment is for one year and may be renewed depending on funding. The stipend will range from \$35,000 to \$42,000 depending on degree and experience. The appointee will not be considered an employee of EPA.

The EPA mentor for this project is Nikos Singelis, Office of Wastewater Management, Water Permits Division. His phone number is (202) 564-0692 and e-mail is nikos.singelis@epa.gov.

The Internship Program for EPA Water is administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. Please reference Project # EPA Water 2004-20 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>