

1. OWP-AAP: Compile State Groundwater Monitoring Requirements

Position Title: Aquifer Protection Summer Volunteer

Background: About 5 million people in Region 8 rely on groundwater for their drinking water sources. Some states and federal agencies responsible for leasing land or mineral rights for energy development have groundwater monitoring requirements in place to identify impacts to groundwater, but the monitoring requirements vary and in some cases do not exist. Existing monitoring programs are inconsistent and it is not known where existing programs have been successful in identifying impacts.

Position Description: The goal of the project is a compilation of existing Region 8 state and federal groundwater monitoring requirements in energy extraction areas. The compilation would include specifics of those requirements (e.g., frequency, timeline pre vs. post development, constituents measured and by what protocols, and pros/cons of each (landowner access, unknown water well construction, etc.)) where the details are available. The data intern obtains for this compilation may include instances in which dedicated groundwater monitoring of domestic water wells has identified impacts or water quality concerns before, during, or after drilling or production on nearby energy well pads.

Specific duties may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Search for existing state and federal groundwater monitoring requirements.
- Contacting EPA staff and staff at the federal agencies (with senior EPA staff) that may have monitoring requirements.
- Potentially contact oil and gas operators to get specific information about the monitoring requirements and efficacy in identifying any issues.
- Compile information in a readily useable format.
- Analyze compiled information to determine implications to monitoring aquifers used for drinking water that may be affected by energy development.

Desired Skills:

- Excellent written and verbal communication
- Basic Excel
- Basic Word
- Ability to work independently and make contacts without introductions by others
- Works well on a team; understands instructions, uses feedback

Knowledge/Experience (optional, but a bonus):

Basic groundwater or aquifer science or engineering

Timeline:

Intern will be on board for 2 months (there may be an opportunity to extend for a maximum of 6 months depending on circumstances, but this is not assured).

Desired hours per week:

30-40 hours.

Desired start date:

Not fixed. Completing the project before end of fiscal year is the goal.

For More Information: Karen Hamilton 303 312 6236.

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