

DENVER, CO – EPA Region 8, Site Assessment Team Intern (CLOSING DATE: 04/09/2018)

Position Title: Site Assessment Team 2018 Intern

Background: Mining has played a pivotal role in the economic development of Colorado and Montana. However, because of mining activities this industry has left a legacy of scarred landscapes and contaminated water across these states. There are over 17,000 known abandoned hardrock mines/features scattered across Colorado alone. Many of these abandoned mines contribute acid mine drainage via underground workings and adits, and contaminated surface water run-off from large tailing or waste rock piles, resulting in significant contamination and environmental impacts to their local watersheds. Most of these sites were mined and abandoned prior to enactment of modern environmental regulations in the 1970's and 1980's. As a result, there is limited regulatory authority and funding to address environmental impacts of these abandoned mine sites.

Position Description: The intern will learn about the complexities and impacts from abandoned mine sites, become familiar with regulatory program requirements, and develop an understanding of agency collaboration occurring to address these sites. They will come to understand various project components in the assessment of abandoned mine sites by assisting with the following potential tasks:

- Review history of site activities and the potential for release of hazardous substances by applying EPA guidance to perform CERCLA pre-screening and preliminary assessments (assessment of ground water, surface water and soil targets);
- Review components of water quality standards and analyze results of draining adit samples in regard to the impaired status of receiving rivers, potential for exposures to human health and the environment, and consideration of possible ways to reducing impacts to aquatic life;
- Assist with preparation of emergency plans and health and safety plans for various abandoned mine sites;
- Attend mixed ownership site technical meetings and develop meeting minutes; and
- As a final project the intern will prepare a brief summary of the impacts of metals loading from abandoned mine sites related to water quality effects and TMDL's, and present at a Site Assessment Program meeting.

Desired Skills: Excellent written and verbal communication; Experience with Microsoft Office Suite programs; Ability to work independently as well as in a team setting; and Skills in processing large data sets and analyzing critical elements.

Knowledge/Experience (optional, but a bonus): Coursework/knowledge in science, statistics and/or math fields or similar areas of study will be viewed favorably, as well as expertise in excel spreadsheets.

Timeline: The Site Assessment Team internship is estimated to last no more than four months.

Desired hours per week: 20-40 (negotiable)

Desired start date: Flexible

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: Supply transcripts, resume and cover letter (*indicating the positions or positions you are interested in, your available start date, and approximate hours/weeks you could work*) to R8EPaintern@epa.gov with the subject line: Student Volunteer Internship Program.

For More Information: David Fronczak, 303-312-6096 or fronczak.david@epa.gov

Contact: Elaine Robles, Human Resources, 303.312.6194 or robles.elaine@epa.gov