

## DENVER, CO - EPA Region 8 Aquifer and Aquatic Resources Protection Unit Intern (CLOSING DATE: 04/09/2018)

**Position Title:** Research assistant for R8/ORD RARE project

**Background:** In the arid West, industry wastewater may be permitted for surface discharge if it is of sufficient quality to provide water for wildlife or agricultural use and is put to this beneficial use during the period of discharge. Many of these discharges are critical for watering livestock and wildlife, and irrigating crops for both human and food animal consumption; in some cases, these discharges blend with human recreational or drinking water sources. However, determining the appropriate beneficial use can be difficult because the composition of these waste streams is often poorly understood. Region 8 Aquifer and Aquatic Resources Protection Unit (AARPU) staff and ORD are evaluating the chemistry and toxicity effects of waste water discharges from the outfall through a series of downstream locations to evaluate the effects of natural attenuation. The intention is to use this data to develop a biosensor tool which will inform best management practices for waste streams with complex chemistry.

**Position Description:** The volunteer will support the research team through research on constituents present in various waste streams, compiling existing chemistry data, and sample preparation methods for toxicity evaluation. The volunteer intern may also have the opportunity to aid in sample collection.

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

- Conducting research related to types of chemicals or other constituents that may be present in industry wastes
- Conducting research related to types of treatments prior to discharge
- Compiling existing water quality data
- Conducting research on preparation methods for various toxicological analyses
- Water sampling in the field
- Other as Needed

*Desired Skills:*

- Excellent written and verbal communication
- Basic Excel
- Basic Word
- Ability to work independently
- Works well on a team

*Knowledge/Experience* (optional, but a bonus): Experience with laboratory protocols, data analysis, basic research and field methods preferred. Working knowledge of industry processes, including beneficial (re)use practices implemented for supplementing surface water in arid regions.

**Timeline:**

Intern will be on board for a minimum of 2 months, maximum of 3 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:** 20 hours minimum

(preference will be given to qualified candidates available to work more hours per week).

**Desired start date:** June 1, 2018

(Please Note: From the time of acceptance, there will be a 2-4 week period prior to first day of work while paperwork is completed.)

**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](mailto:R8EPAintern@epa.gov) with the subject line: Student Volunteer Internship Program.

**For More Information:** (Program Contact) Treasure Bailey, [bailley.treasure@epa.gov](mailto:bailley.treasure@epa.gov); 303-312-6480

**Contact:** Elaine Robles, Human Resources, 303.312.6194 or [robles.elaine@epa.gov](mailto:robles.elaine@epa.gov)