Fall 2020
Intern Project Description

Program Name: PFAS in Wastewater and Residuals
Location: Boston (Remote)
Program Supervisor: Jennifer Wood

Project Description
MassDEP is taking several steps to better understand and regulate per- and polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in the environment. These efforts include setting limits for PFAS in soil and groundwater at waste cleanup sites and proposing limits for PFAS in drinking water. Additionally, MassDEP is investigating PFAS in wastewater, as well as in residuals from wastewater and other processes (e.g., industrial processes and paper production).

Residuals are known to contain PFAS and use of these products as fertilizers could result in contamination of drinking water sources, food chain crops, or surface waters. As a result, MassDEP is building a comprehensive strategy to address PFAS in these products. The strategy includes testing requirements, stakeholder meetings, and potential regulatory revisions. Additionally, PFAS testing has now been proposed for several wastewater discharge permits in Massachusetts.

The wastewater and residuals programs are seeking an intern to assist with this PFAS-related work.

Description of Internship Duties
• Compiling, manipulating, and analyzing PFAS data from wastewater and residuals
• Preparing written and graphical summaries of data analyses
• Providing support to residuals program for stakeholder meetings (e.g., developing presentation materials, summarizing meeting notes, assisting with answering follow-up questions)
• Performing calculations to be used for potential revisions to regulations.
**Knowledge Requested**

- Enrollment in an environmental/civil engineering, environmental science, or chemistry degree program
- Experience with data manipulation and analysis. Knowledge of basic statistics.
- Experience with Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.
- Experience with technical writing.

**The Value of a MassDEP Internship**

MassDEP’s Volunteer Internship Program creates a “win-win” experience by providing experiential learning for interns while allowing the agency to cultivate a professional, diverse pool of applicants for employment opportunities in the environmental field.

MassDEP’s goal is to provide a growth oriented opportunity for all interns. Interns will receive invaluable real world experience, intellectual challenges, problem solving skills and contacts in their field of interest. Interns are considered an integral part of MassDEP.

*Submittal of this project description indicates that you received supervisory approval*