Academic Hourly Assistant (Microbial Water Technician)

Illinois Sustainable Technology Center
Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) is part of the Prairie Research Institute (PRI) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, which is centrally located between Chicago, St. Louis, and Indianapolis. ISTC integrates applied research, technical assistance, and information services to advance efforts in the areas of pollution prevention; water and energy conservation; and materials recycling and beneficial reuse. Learn more at go.illinois.edu/PRIjobs.

We are seeking an individual to obtain and analyze samples for Legionella pneumophila, incubate the samples, and identify the species of Legionella present. Position is based in Champaign, Illinois.

Major Duties and Responsibilities:

• Plan sampling trips and coordinate those trips with clients.
• Conduct fieldwork to collect samples. Most sampling events will be day trips, but overnight travel may be required. Fieldwork, which will involve traveling up to 50 percent of the time, will include visits to facilities including prisons, mental health centers, regional office buildings, and state parks. Must be able to lift and carry 30-40 pounds of testing equipment for 100 yards. Must be able to climb ladders to roofs to obtain samples. Must be able to pass a respirator fitness test.
• Obtain samples from potable and non-potable sources in accordance with CDC and EPA protocols; prepare samples for incubation; interpret post incubation samples; perform plating and identification following microbial procedures to identify specific Legionella species.
• Perform field testing for pH, temperature, and chlorine level.
• Provide a written analysis detailing any noted deficiencies in treatment or control with recommendations for corrective actions.
• Provide professional, non-biased advice regarding test results to the clients.
• Keep abreast of developments in this discipline.
• Perform other duties as needed in order to further the mission and goals of the Survey, PRI, and the University of Illinois.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in microbiology, chemistry, environmental sciences or related field. Experience in sample collection and preservation and identification of microbial species. Effective communication, personal relations, collaboration, organizational, teamwork, and leadership skills. Demonstrated ability to perform effectively in a diverse and fast-paced work environmental consisting of multiple and changing priorities with stringent deadlines, under minimal supervisor. Attention to detail, sound judgment, and strong conflict resolution skills. Proficiency in commonly employed software and databases. Valid driver’s license.

Work up to 40 hours per week at $18 to $20 per hour (depending on qualifications)

Please submit via e-mail 1) a cover letter, 2) resume, and 3) the contact information of three academic or professional references to Michael Springman, Associate Engineer and Manager of Facilities Water Services, at springma@illinois.edu.

The University of Illinois conducts criminal background checks on all job candidates upon acceptance of a contingent offer. As a qualifying federal contractor, the University of Illinois System uses E-Verify to verify Employment eligibility.