

ALABAMA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

Serving Alabama's Rural Water and Wastewater Communities

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Part-Time Water Quality Action Specialist / Wastewater Technical Assistance

Position:	Part-Time Water Quality Action Specialist (WQAS) – EPA Wastewater Programs
Organization:	Alabama Rural Water Association (ARWA)
Location:	2576 Bell Road, Montgomery, Alabama (home office, with extensive statewide travel)
Reports To:	Rob White IV, Executive Director
Hours:	Flexible; based on program workload. Estimated 10–15 hours per week.
Duration:	Through August 31, 2027 (EPA grant period)
Compensation:	Commensurate with experience
Travel:	Required. Frequent multi-day field trips across Alabama with overnight stays.
Posted:	March 2026

About ARWA and This Opportunity

The Alabama Rural Water Association (ARWA) is seeking an experienced wastewater professional to join our team as a part-time Water Quality Action Specialist (WQAS). This position supports three concurrent EPA-funded technical assistance programs serving small, rural wastewater systems across Alabama. The programs run through August 2027 and provide critical compliance training, financial planning assistance, and community-driven wastewater solutions to systems serving populations under 10,000.

This is not an administrative role. We are looking for a partner in this initiative — someone who can share the full scope of field work, system assessments, community engagement, and technical assistance delivery. You will work directly alongside the Executive Director to help Alabama's most underserved wastewater systems achieve compliance, access funding, and build long-term capacity.

The Programs

EPA PA1 – Acquisition of Finance: Help rural systems access CWSRF and other funding sources for infrastructure improvements. 212 total T/TA hours, 12 distinct systems minimum.

EPA PA2 – Compliance Training & Technical Assistance: Onsite and classroom training to help systems achieve and maintain CWA and NPDES compliance. 185 T/TA hours including cybersecurity, emerging contaminants, and lagoon-specific training.

EPA PA4 – Decentralized Wastewater Systems: Community-driven solutions for areas with failing septic and decentralized wastewater infrastructure. Community assessments, solutions plans, and stakeholder engagement. 155 TA hours, 10 systems minimum.

Key Responsibilities

- **Conduct onsite technical assistance** at wastewater treatment plants, lagoon systems, school facilities, and decentralized wastewater communities across Alabama. Assess operations, identify compliance issues, and develop practical improvement plans.
- **Deliver classroom and hybrid training sessions** on topics including CWA compliance, NPDES regulations, cybersecurity, emerging contaminants, asset management, and financial planning for small utilities.
- **Assist systems with CWSRF and other funding applications**, including financial capacity assessments, rate analyses, preliminary engineering report coordination, and IUP placement strategies.
- **Conduct community wastewater assessments** for decentralized systems, facilitate community meetings, develop solutions plans, and promote SepticSmart resources.
- **Document all technical assistance in Waterlog**, EPA's tracking system, with detailed descriptions (100+ characters), proper activity codes, NPDES identifiers, and professional supporting documentation.
- **Develop professional deliverables** including Focus Stories, Story Maps (ArcGIS), training agendas, sign-in sheets, and compliance reports meeting EPA audit standards.
- **Travel extensively across Alabama** including multi-day road trips with overnight stays to efficiently serve systems statewide. Typical trips are 2–4 days covering regional clusters of systems.
- **Coordinate with ADEM, EPA Region 4, and NRWA** on program priorities, system referrals, and regulatory guidance.

Required Qualifications

- Direct experience operating, managing, or providing technical assistance to wastewater treatment systems (municipal WWTPs, lagoons, or decentralized/septic systems)
- Working knowledge of Clean Water Act requirements, NPDES permitting, and wastewater compliance standards
- Ability and willingness to travel extensively across Alabama, including frequent multi-day trips with overnight stays
- Strong written communication skills — ability to produce professional, audit-ready documentation
- Valid Alabama driver's license and reliable transportation
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Comfort working independently in the field and managing your own schedule

Preferred Qualifications

- Alabama wastewater operator certification (any grade)
- Experience with CWSRF or other water/wastewater financing programs

- Familiarity with EPA ECHO database or similar compliance tracking tools
- Experience conducting training or continuing education for operators (CEU delivery)
- Knowledge of lagoon system operations and management
- Experience with community engagement, particularly in rural or underserved areas
- Familiarity with ArcGIS or GIS-based mapping tools
- Prior experience with NRWA or state Rural Water Association programs

What We Offer

- **Meaningful work:** Directly improve water quality and public health outcomes for Alabama's most underserved communities.
- **Flexible schedule:** Hours vary with program workload. Field weeks are intensive; office weeks allow more flexibility.
- **Professional development:** NRWA-provided training, EPA program experience, and exposure to CWSRF financing processes.
- **Statewide impact:** Work with 18+ wastewater systems across every region of Alabama over the program period.
- **Travel reimbursement:** Mileage, lodging, and per diem for field travel per ARWA policy.

Certification Requirement

All Water Quality Action Specialists must complete Utility Management Certification through the Water Pro Academy within 45 days of hire. ARWA will facilitate this certification. Additionally, all WQASs must attend annual NRWA-provided training.

How to Apply

Submit a resume and brief cover letter describing your wastewater experience and interest in rural water technical assistance to:

Rob White IV, Executive Director

Alabama Rural Water Association

Email: rwhite@alruralwater.com

Phone: (334) 396-5511

Position open until filled. Review of applications begins immediately.

Alabama Rural Water Association is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

This position is funded through EPA technical assistance grants administered by the National Rural Water Association.