



## Job Opening Posted December 2016

**Title:** Water Resources Specialist for Energy Program (part time)

**Program Area:** Encouraging downstate Illinois' transition to a diverse green economy

### ***Organization:***

Prairie Rivers Network is Illinois' statewide river conservation organization and Illinois' affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation. Founded in 1967, the organization is headquartered in Champaign, IL, a dynamic University community just 45 minutes from a national scenic river and within 20 minutes of one of the state's finest small mouth bass streams. Prairie Rivers Network works to restore and protect Illinois' rivers for the benefit of people, fish, and wildlife.

Changes in the coal mining industry and coal burning power plants mean changes for Illinois communities and their economies. Ongoing mining activities and the legacy waste pollution from burning coal continue to pose potential threats to land, rivers, people and wildlife across Illinois. Although coal companies continue to pursue permits to mine coal on the promise of bringing jobs and revenues to economically strapped Illinois communities, the opportunities are at best hollow, with many companies seeking bankruptcy protections. The burden of coal's legacy will come at a cost to Illinois, as the industry continues to decline due to a variety of factors, leaving the high cost of mine closure and clean-up, mountains of coal ash pits around the state with the potential to leak into our waters, and the need for communities to prepare for a diverse economic future that does not depend on mining or burning coal.

Prairie Rivers Network seeks an energetic and outgoing individual to combine experience with advocacy campaigns with outreach and communication skills to coordinate the organization's efforts to introduce coalfield and coal power plant communities to new economic opportunities. Prairie Rivers Network ([www.prairierivers.org](http://www.prairierivers.org)) is fighting to protect our rivers and streams from new and expanding coal mines and to ensure that toxic coal ash dumps are responsibly cleaned up as Illinois phases out its aging fleet of coal fired power plants. The Water Resources Specialist for Energy Programs reports to the Executive Director and works closely with our staff Water Resources Engineer and our collaborative partners to design and implement campaigns and programs to protect Illinois' waters from further coal pollution by helping communities consider and explore new economic opportunities.

### ***Major Duties:***

Coordinate planning and implementation, including communication, outreach and community mobilization in support of our campaigns to reduce water pollution from coal mining and coal ash disposal in Illinois. Specifically, this position is responsible for:

- Coordinating our developing downstate economic diversification campaign, adjusting actions as needed.
- Working directly with partner organizations and frontline community groups to develop their capacity to influence decision making processes and protect their water resources from coal pollution and its legacy.

- Continuing to build and support an alliance of organizations and frontline community residents that facilitates communication, participation and basin-wide action on coal pollution issues and transition to new economic opportunities.
- Coordinating outreach and education efforts to broaden awareness of coal pollution issues in Illinois.
- Mobilizing our members, partners, supporters and community leaders to take action in support of our coal program work through various outreach means, including social media.
- Tracking state and federal administrative and legislative actions related to energy policy, particularly as it relates to transition from mining and burning coal.
- Researching efforts in other states to provide supports to communities facing coal industry decline.

### ***Qualifications***

- Degree in Community and Environmental Planning; Sustainable Development or a closely related field.
- Strong writing and public speaking skills; good public relations skills; experience implementing social media campaigns; experience working with media
- Experience with outreach for and planning and organizing trainings and/or events a plus
- Experience implementing projects in diverse settings
- Ability to collaborate with others on a team, while implementing work independently
- Strong commitment to water protection and environmental sustainability, familiarity with energy issues and climate issues
- Ability to communicate research and technical issues to lay audiences a plus
- Willingness to travel and sometimes work evenings and/or weekends.
- Valid driver's license with either access to own vehicle or eligibility to rent.

**Position is half time with the potential to be expanded as new resources become available.**

***To Apply:*** Please send a cover letter and resume to Prairie Rivers Network, 1902 Fox Drive, Suite G, Champaign, IL 61820 or [info@prairierivers.org](mailto:info@prairierivers.org).