



Public Engagement Administrator – Job Description

Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO)

Department: Communication & Outreach

Reports to: Director of Communication and Outreach

Location: Cincinnati, OH

FLSA Status: Exempt (Full-time)

Classification: Senior Level

Salary Band 5: \$62,108 – \$82,138

Position Overview

The Public Engagement Administrator is ORSANCO's senior-level lead for public involvement, outreach, and regional collaboration initiatives throughout the Ohio River Basin. This position operates at the intersection of science communication, public engagement, and regional coordination, translating ORSANCO program data into accessible, consistent, and meaningful information for public audiences across the Basin. This position supports the requirements of ORSANCO's interstate Compact Agreement and Commission Strategic Plan through the interpretation, dissemination, and communication of water quality information while promoting interstate cooperation and public understanding of basinwide water quality conditions. Working under the Director of Communication and Outreach, the Administrator exercises independent judgment in planning and implementing initiatives, leading complex project implementation efforts, coordinating staff, interns, volunteers, and regional partner activities, and representing ORSANCO at public events, meetings, and collaborative initiatives throughout the Basin. This role requires a high level of coordination with state and federal agencies, universities, nonprofit organizations, watershed groups, local communities, and a wide variety of regional partners.

Key Responsibilities

The Administrator develops and delivers technical presentations, outreach programs, and basinwide collaboration to strengthen ORSANCO's role as a regional water quality authority, expand public access to water quality information, increase public awareness and engagement, and promote stewardship of the vital resources of the Ohio River and its tributaries. The position also supports program administration including funding development, sponsor engagement, grant reporting, and compliance requirements.

- 1. Science Communication & Resource Development** – Support ORSANCO's mission to interpret and disseminate water quality information to promote public understanding of interstate water quality conditions throughout the Ohio River Basin.
 - Translate complex water quality monitoring data, scientific findings, and technical assessments into accessible public resources, technical communication materials, public information tools, and interpretive guidance documents.
 - Deliver water quality science presentations and public interpretation of basinwide conditions including harmful algae bloom reporting, biological assessments, stream impairment analysis, and a wide variety of monitoring initiatives.
 - Represent ORSANCO at regional meetings, conferences, public forums, and events.
 - Train Foundation for Ohio River Education staff and educators to interpret and communicate ORSANCO water quality data and scientific information for community outreach and public engagement.
- 2. Outreach Program Administration** - Coordinate regional outreach and public involvement programs that support ORSANCO's mission to disseminate water quality information, promote



interstate cooperation, and encourage stewardship of the Ohio River. Activities are supported by ORSANCO's Foundation for Ohio River Education staff, partners, and regional collaborators.

- **Ohio River Sweep – Project Management:** Manage planning and implementation of a riverwide litter cleanup program, including coordination of volunteers, partners, logistics, public surveying, budgeting, reporting, fundraising, sponsor engagement, and stewardship outreach efforts throughout the Basin.
 - **Life Below the Waterline Mobile Aquarium – Public Engagement:** Support educational exhibits, interpretive materials, participation, logistics, surveying, and reporting with ORSANCO biological staff, educators, host communities, and regional partners to support public understanding of Ohio River water quality and aquatic life.
 - **Community Outreach – Event Facilitation:** Coordinate outreach events like ORSANCO's Ohio River Celebration event, Ohio River Hill Day activities, public information activities, and stakeholder participation; manage logistics and engagement efforts; maintain professional representation of ORSANCO and the Foundation for Ohio River Education; and support development of public-facing watershed science and stewardship resources.
- 3. Community & Stakeholder Engagement** - Coordinate interstate collaboration efforts supporting ORSANCO public information initiatives, basinwide partnership coordination, and stakeholder communication throughout the Ohio River Basin.
- Lead stakeholder outreach activities that connect communities, agencies, elected officials, and regional partners with ORSANCO programs and public information resources.
 - Support communication, coordination, and informational activities associated with the Ohio River Basin Congressional Caucus and other regional partnership initiatives to promote awareness and understanding of basinwide water quality priorities, interstate collaboration efforts, and ORSANCO programs.
 - Organize meetings, collaborative outreach activities, public information efforts, and regional engagement initiatives throughout the Basin.
 - Support partner participation in programs, initiatives, public events, and outreach efforts.

Required Qualifications

Must possess at least 10 years of experience in outreach, science communication, public speaking, and program management related to environmental science or water quality, including experience supervising staff, interns, volunteers, or project teams; delivering technical presentations regarding water quality or environmental data; knowledge of watershed science, water quality monitoring, nutrient pollution, and algae identification; the ability to translate highly technical data for public audiences; and experience managing complex, multi-partner regional programs.

Education

Bachelor's degree in environmental science, biology, water quality management, communication, or related field required. Master's degree in environmental science or related discipline preferred. GIS mapping, spatial data interpretation, or public-facing geographic information tools is a plus.

Compensation & Benefits

ORSANCO offers a comprehensive benefits package supporting employee well-being, professional growth, and work-life balance.