## Women in Energy (WIE) Externship Program – Columbia University’s Center on Global Energy Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Is it the End of the Coal Age in America? A Look at Future Technology</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freepoint Commodities LLC</td>
<td>Founded in 2011, Freepoint is based in Stamford, CT with over 500 employees worldwide. Freepoint is a global merchant of physical commodities and also provides physical supply services and related structured solutions. Freepoint recognizes the value that our employees bring to the table. Our company is enriched by their knowledge, expertise, abilities, skillsets, creativity and diverse life experiences. These are all invaluable ingredients securing our company’s future.</td>
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### About our organization

- **Our Expertise**
  - With Freepoint, you will deal with a cohesive team of industry experts. We pride ourselves on our depth of experience and the intellectual capital of our employees. We emphasize nurturing relationships at every level – management team, investment team, trading team, back-office personnel and support staff, and everything in between.

- **Our Shared History**
  - Our teams feature seasoned professionals, many of whom have worked together for decades. This fosters an environment of collaboration and shared principles, where thoughts and ideas flow freely. Our management is passionate about the company and fully committed to our people.

- **Our Common Goal**
  - We operate our company with the integrity of a shared moral compass. We understand that a community of people depends on one another’s hard work and sound judgement, and we act accordingly.

- **Our Culture**
  - Freepoint’s culture is one of respect and caring. Employees are more than just co-workers, we form the Freepoint family. Individuals treat each other with kindness, and the company culture encourages meaningful interactions between colleagues to
**Project Description**

This project can be described as a deep dive into the coal stacks in America and mapping out the potential end of the coal age and future technology.

The student will research the coal stock in the US; identify each plant, the owner of each plant, type of costs – service or deregulation and a timeline of the lifecycle for each plant. The student will then analyze any interconnection requirements of an imminent retirement of a plant to understand the communication of the plant closure and its effects on the grid. If a plant closure is imminent, will another resource be implemented as a replacement? Analyze the plant closure timelines over the next 15 years; research which plants will need carbon credits, which will just shut down, and the overall effect on the ISO (Independent System Operators) and or RTO (Regional Transmission Organizations and their economic future.

The student will use the knowledge gained to then research future technology, such as battery technology and solar energy. Will these new technological advantages serve as an alternative? Are there chances that the sources could be deployed to the grid, if so, how and when? What are the risks, economic upsides, future timelines of rollout, and sustainability outcomes?

**Supervisors for Project**

Brison Bickerton: Managing Director, Nat Gas Fundamentals  
Andrew Ruck: AVP, Power Analyst

**Qualifications**

- Interested in economics, quantitative analytics, research analysis, financial modeling
- Strong oral and written communication skills, including potential interaction with senior management
- Can gather information from various sources and compile reports to be used by the business
- Ideal student is a critical thinker, self-starter, problem solver, and is detailed oriented.
- Strong report writer and presentation skills

**Time Commitment**

20-40 hours per week