

January 2008 Employee of the Month

Karin Smith, Lead Hydrogeologist – Water Supply Department

Karin is being recognized for her outstanding work connected with the recent issuance of the 20-year Consumptive Use Permit for Miami-Dade County.

Miami-Dade County is one of the largest public water supply utilities in the country and their consumptive use permit is one of the most complex and controversial permits ever issued by this agency. Karin was assigned the project because of her history of successfully managing extremely complicated Consumptive Use Permit applications.

In order to be successful the permit needed to meet the future water demands of the County while protecting the Everglades and preventing saline water intrusion, using options like alternative water supplies and operational protocols to get additional water without actually using 'new' water.

Many people contributed to the completion of the permit; however, Karin had the ultimate responsibility to assimilate the enormous technical and political concerns and issues into a coherent and defensible recommendation for Agency action. Karin's ability to exercise strict yet reasonable understanding and interpretation of District rule and policy was essential to the analysis and recommendations set forth in the staff report.

While working on the Miami-Dade Consumptive Use Permit, Karin also successfully completed other high-profile Consumptive Use Permits including the Babcock Village Public Water Supply and the North Broward Recharge System, as well as contributing to management of the water shortage.