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# People BEHIND THE WATER

## Water Resources Engineer

Pamela Kenel's career has taken her from watersheds to reservoirs to municipal buildings, but her fascinating journey began alongside "Johnny Horizon."

A Maryland-based Senior Water Resources Engineer with the consulting firm Black & Veatch, Kenel recalls seeing Johnny Horizon commercials as a young person and being inspired to work to protect the environment. Horizon, the 1969 public relations creation of the Bureau of Land Management, encouraged people to preserve their natural resources. His messages, coupled with the influence of her mechanical engineer father, pointed Kenel toward a profession that combines environmental awareness, scientific analysis and communications.

"To do this job really well, it isn't about the math and science," Kenel explains. "It's the communications. This is a very public job. I'm working with water suppliers and helping them work with their customers. And that's everybody."

Kenel helps water utilities understand water quality and quantity issues that are critical to maintaining safe and sustainable supplies. The issues are often inseparable, because water quality can change dramatically when streamflows are low or reservoir levels drop. Kenel's knowledge and advice can be critical for drought contingency planning, facilitating utility partnerships, looking for future water sources and other complex issues.

With today's technology and increasing willingness of communities to work together to solve water resource challenges, Kenel believes future water supply challenges can be identified and met. "With all this information at our disposal, we have the tools to analyze it and make sure that these sources are safe and reliable not only for today but for the future," she said.



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