

DOCKET NO.: 020745-WS - Application for Certificate to
Provide Wastewater Service in Charlotte County by Island
Environmental Utility Inc.

WITNESS: **Direct Testimony of Dr. Abdul Ahmadi**
Appearing on Behalf of the Staff of the Florida
Public Service Commission.

DATE FILED: December 15, 2003

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF DR. ABDUL AHMADI

1
2 Q. Please state your name and business address.

3 A. Dr. Abdul B. Ahmadi, 2295 Victoria Avenue, Suite 364, Ft. Myers, FL
4 33901

5 Q. Please state a brief description of your educational background and
6 experience.

7 A. Civil and Environmental Engineer, Ph.D in Environmental Engineering
8 Sciences, Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Florida since 1984.
9 Experience in permitting, compliance and enforcement of water and wastewater
10 systems.

11 Q. By whom are you presently employed?

12 A. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)

13 Q. How long have you been employed with the FDEP and in what capacity?

14 A. I have been employed with the FDEP since September, 1981. I started as
15 a permitting engineer and I am currently in charge of the District's Water
16 Facilities Program Administration.

17 Q. What are your general responsibilities at the FDEP?

18 A. I oversee permitting, compliance and enforcement of potable water,
19 domestic wastewater, industrial wastewater and underground injection control
20 programs.

21 Q. Can you summarize the purpose of your testimony?

22 A. Island Environmental Utility, Inc. (Island) plans to purchase wastewater
23 capacity from Englewood Water District's (Englewood) wastewater system to
24 serve Knight Island, Don Pedro Island and Little Gasparilla Island. My
25 testimony will include a discussion of Englewood's environmental compliance,

1 | in addition to several other utilities in and near the Island's proposed
2 | service area, and other environmental issues.

3 | Q. Can you please identify the other utilities that you are referring to?

4 | Q. Useppa Island Utility, Inc.'s (Useppa) wastewater system in Lee County;
5 | Knight Island Utilities' (Knight) wastewater system in Charlotte County;
6 | Little Gasparilla Utility, Inc.'s (Little Gasparilla) water system in
7 | Charlotte County; Charlotte County Utilities, in Charlotte County; and the
8 | Hideaway Bay wastewater system in Charlotte County.

9 | Q. Are you familiar with Englewood's wastewater system in Charlotte County?

10 | A. Yes.

11 | Q. Assuming that Island intends to purchase capacity in units of 100,000
12 | gallons per day (gpd) from Englewood, will Englewood be able to provide
13 | wastewater service to Island?

14 | A. Yes. They have applied for a permit to expand the wastewater facility
15 | from 2.14 million gallons per day (mgd) to 3.0 mgd.

16 | Q. Does Englewood have appropriate current permits from the FDEP?

17 | A. Yes.

18 | Q. Please state the issuance date and the expiration date of the current
19 | operating or construction permit(s).

20 | A. Englewood's operating permit, FLA014126, was issued on April 19, 1999,
21 | and expires on April 18, 2004.

22 | Q. Is Englewood in compliance with its permits?

23 | A. Yes, Englewood is in compliance with its permits.

24 | Q. Are Englewood's wastewater collection, treatment and disposal facilities
25 | adequate to serve present customers based on permitted capacity?

1 | A. Yes.

2 | Q. Has FDEP required Englewood to take any action so as to minimize
3 | possible adverse effects resulting from odors, noise, aerosol drift or
4 | lighting?

5 | A. No.

6 | Q. Do Englewood's pump stations and lift stations meet FDEP requirements
7 | with respect to location, reliability and safety?

8 | A. To the best of our knowledge, there have been no recent problems with
9 | the pump stations.

10 | Q. Does Englewood have certified operators, as required by Chapter 62-602,
11 | Florida Administrative Code?

12 | A. Yes.

13 | Q. Is Englewood's overall maintenance of the treatment, collection, and
14 | disposal facilities satisfactory?

15 | A. Yes.

16 | Q. Does Englewood meet all applicable technology-based effluent limitations
17 | (TBELS)?

18 | A. Yes.

19 | Q. Does Englewood's facility meet the effluent disposal requirements of
20 | Sections 62-611 and 62-600.530, Florida Administrative Code?

21 | A. Yes.

22 | Q. Are Englewood's collection, treatment and disposal facilities in
23 | compliance with all other provisions of Chapter 62, Florida Administrative
24 | Code, not previously mentioned?

25 | A. Yes.

1 Q. Has Englewood been the subject of any FDEP enforcement action within the
2 past five years?

3 A. Yes. 1. An Aquifer, Storage and Recovery (ASR) well was placed into
4 serve without a permit being issued. 2. There was an overflow of the reuse
5 storage pond. These issues have been resolved.

6 Q. Can you comment on the type and number of deficiencies above?

7 A. Yes, it is not uncommon to find a number of small deficiencies at
8 facilities. In general the utility is doing a good job of maintaining these
9 facilities.

10 Q. Are you familiar with Useppa's wastewater system in Lee County, of which
11 Mr. Garfield R. Beckstead is an officer?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Does Useppa have appropriate current permits from the FDEP?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Please state the issuance date and the expiration date of the current
16 operating or construction permit(s).

17 A. Useppa's operating permit, FLA014494, was issued on August 18, 1999, and
18 expires on August 17, 2004.

19 Q. Is Useppa in compliance with its permits?

20 A. Yes, the plant is in compliance with its permits.

21 Q. Are Useppa's wastewater collection, treatment and disposal facilities
22 adequate to serve present customers based on permitted capacity?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Has FDEP required Useppa to take any action so as to minimize possible
25 adverse effects resulting from odors, noise, aerosol drift or lighting?

1 | A. No.

2 | Q. Do Useppa's pump stations and lift stations meet FDEP requirements with
3 | respect to location, reliability and safety?

4 | A. To the best of our knowledge, there have been no recent problems with
5 | the pump stations.

6 | Q. Does Useppa have certified operators, as required by Chapter 62-602,
7 | Florida Administrative Code?

8 | A. Yes.

9 | Q. Is Useppa's overall maintenance of the treatment, collection, and
10 | disposal facilities satisfactory?

11 | A. Yes.

12 | Q. Does Useppa meet all applicable TBELS?

13 | A. Yes.

14 | Q. Does Useppa's facility meet the effluent disposal requirements of
15 | Sections 62-611 and 62-600.530, Florida Administrative Code?

16 | A. Yes.

17 | Q. Are Useppa's collection, treatment and disposal facilities in compliance
18 | with all other provisions of Chapter 62, Florida Administrative Code, not
19 | previously mentioned?

20 | A. No. , The November 18, 2003 inspection indicates that the flow meter was
21 | not calibrated and a groundwater report was missing. The utility has about
22 | 30 days to correct these deficiencies.

23 | Q. Has Useppa been the subject of any FDEP enforcement action within the
24 | past five years?

25 | A. No. However, FDEP sent noncompliance letters on November 18, 2003,

1 February 13, 2003, September 17, 2002, and September 14, 2001. These
2 violations were sent to correct a leak at tank, an NO3 violation, cracks and
3 lack of locks on some lift stations. All of these issues have been corrected
4 with the exception of information requested November 18, 2003.

5 Q. Can you comment on the type and number of corrections above?

6 A. Yes, it is not uncommon to find a number of small deficiencies at
7 facilities. In general the utility is doing a good job of maintaining these
8 facilities.

9 Q. Are you familiar with Knight's wastewater system in Charlotte County?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Is Knight located within the proposed service area?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Does Knight have appropriate current permits from the FDEP?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Please state the issuance date and the expiration date of the current
16 operating or construction permit(s).

17 A. Knight's operating permit, FLA014095, was issued on March 1, 2001, and
18 expires on February 18, 2006.

19 Q. Is Knight in compliance with its permits?

20 A. Yes, the plants are in compliance with its permits.

21 Q. Are Knight's wastewater collection, treatment and disposal facilities
22 adequate to serve present customers based on permitted capacity?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Has FDEP required Knight to take any action so as to minimize possible
25 adverse effects resulting from odors, noise, aerosol drift or lighting?

1 | A. No.

2 | Q. Do Knight's pump stations and lift stations meet FDEP requirements with
3 | respect to location, reliability and safety?

4 | A. To the best of our knowledge, there have been no recent problems with
5 | the pump stations.

6 | Q. Does Knight have certified operators, as required by Chapter 62-602,
7 | Florida Administrative Code?

8 | A. Yes.

9 | Q. Is Knight's overall maintenance of the treatment, collection, and
10 | disposal facilities satisfactory?

11 | A. Yes.

12 | Q. Does Knight meet all applicable TBELS?

13 | A. Yes.

14 | Q. Does Knight's facility meet the effluent disposal requirements of
15 | Sections 62-611 and 62-600.530, Florida Administrative Code?

16 | A. Yes.

17 | Q. Are Knight's collection, treatment and disposal facilities in compliance
18 | with all other provisions of Chapter 62, Florida Administrative Code, not
19 | previously mentioned?

20 | A. Yes.

21 | Q. Has Knight been the subject of any FDEP enforcement action within the
22 | past five years?

23 | A. No.

24 | Q. Can you comment in general about Knight?

25 | A. In general, the utility is doing a good job of maintaining these

1 facilities.

2 Q. In your opinion does Knight have the existing capacity to provide
3 wastewater service to Knight Island, Don Pedro Island, and Little Gasparilla
4 Island?

5 A. No. It does not have the treatment or disposal capacity for other
6 systems, or for this area.

7 Q. Are you familiar with Little Gasparilla's water system in Charlotte
8 County?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Are Little Gasparilla's utility's treatment facilities and distribution
11 system sufficient to serve its present customers?

12 A. Yes. They installed a new Reverse Osmosis (RO) train (72,000 gallons
13 per day (gpd)) this year and retained the old RO train (36,000 gpd) as backup.

14 Q. Does Little Gasparilla maintain the required 20 pounds per square inch
15 minimum pressure throughout the distribution system?

16 A. Most of the time. An occasional line break could cause a loss of
17 pressure.

18 Q. Does Little Gasparilla comply with Section 62-550.320, Florida
19 Administrative Code, for an auxiliary power source in the event of a power
20 outage?

21 A. Yes. Previously, only source, distribution, pumping and disinfection
22 capability requirements applied. However, under the revised 62-555.320(14),
23 Florida Administrative Code, by December 31, 2005, Little Gasparilla will be
24 required to have sufficient auxiliary power to run the RO unit. Previously,
25 we had requested that Little Gasparilla install sufficient power to the RO

1 | units, but the rules did not require that action.

2 | Q. Are Little Gasparilla's water wells located in compliance with
3 | applicable FDEP regulations?

4 | A. Yes.

5 | Q. Does Little Gasparilla have certified operators, as required by Chapter
6 | 62-602, Florida Administrative Code?

7 | A. Yes.

8 | Q. Has Little Gasparilla established a cross-connection control program in
9 | accordance with Section 62-555.360, Florida Administrative Code?

10 | A. Yes. They have a plan on file.

11 | Q. Does the utility maintain the required chlorine residual or its
12 | equivalent throughout the distribution system?

13 | A. Yes.

14 | Q. Are the plant and distribution systems in compliance with all the other
15 | provisions of Title 62, Florida Administrative Code, not previously mentioned?

16 | A. Yes.

17 | Q. Is the overall maintenance of Little Gasparilla's treatment plant and
18 | distribution facilities satisfactory?

19 | A. Yes.

20 | Q. Does the finished water produced by Little Gasparilla meet the State and
21 | Federal maximum contaminant levels for primary and secondary water quality
22 | standards?

23 | A. Yes.

24 | Q. Does this include the lead and copper rule?

25 | A. Yes.

1 Q. Has Little Gasparilla's compliance with the lead and copper rule
2 resulted in a lessening of the monitoring requirements?

3 A. Yes. Little Gasparilla is on triennial monitoring.

4 Q. Does Little Gasparilla monitor for the volatile organic contaminants
5 (VOCs) listed in Section 62-550.515, Florida Administrative Code?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Does Little Gasparilla monitor for the synthetic organic contaminants
8 (SOCs) listed in Section 62-550.516, Florida Administrative Code?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Do recent chemical analyses of raw and finished water, when compared to
11 FDEP regulations, suggest the need for additional treatment for any of the
12 systems?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Has Little Gasparilla been the subject of any FDEP enforcement action
15 within the past five years?

16 A. No. However, FDEP sent some noncompliance letters on April 17, 2002,
17 May 14, 2002, and June 19, 2002. These letters were sent for a lack of a log
18 book, odor, chlorine supply, aeration tank, chlorine, chlorine reading,
19 chlorine supply depletion, no air supply, total suspended solids, Carbonaceous
20 Biological Oxygen Demand (CBOD), and coliform violations. All of these issues
21 have been corrected.

22 Q. Can you comment in general about Little Gasparilla?

23 A. Yes. In general the utility is doing a good job of maintaining these
24 facilities.

25 Q. Can you comment on an allegation that Mr. John R. Boyer installed about

1 | one-half mile of illegal water pipe to connect to the water line on Don Pedro
2 | Island State Recreation area?

3 | A. I can comment solely based upon my review of a Florida Marine Patrol
4 | incident report on the matter. According to the Florida Marine Patrol file,
5 | on February 7, 1996, a Park Ranger noticed that a one-half mile ditch had been
6 | dug on Don Pedro Island. The Park Ranger heard a rumor that the ditch might
7 | have been dug by Mr. Jack Boyer. Mr. Boyer was subsequently arrested in
8 | Charlotte County and was indicted on August 1, 1996, on charges of criminal
9 | mischief and trespass/larceny with relation to a utility. The file further
10 | indicates that Mr. Boyer was arraigned on October 21, 1996, pled not guilty,
11 | and posted bail. A trial date was set for January, 1997. The file does not
12 | indicate what happened beyond that, or whether Mr. Boyer was convicted of any
13 | crime. The Park Service handled the case from that point, and the regulatory
14 | part of the FDEP took no further action on the matter.

15 | Q. Please explain any special permitting requirements to serve Knight
16 | Island, Don Pedro Island and Little Gasparilla Island.

17 | A. To cross Lemon Bay, an environmental resource permit will be needed.
18 | Also, if the utility goes through state lands, both a state lands approval and
19 | an environmental resource permit will be needed.

20 | Q. Has there been any water or wastewater crossings of Lemon Bay to these
21 | Islands?

22 | A. Yes. Rotonda West Utilities, Inc., now owned by Charlotte County,
23 | installed a water line to serve the Don Pedro Island State Recreation area.

24 | Q. Are the environmental resource permit and state lands environmental
25 | resource permit difficult to obtain from the FDEP?

1 A. If the utility uses directional drilling, these permits are not
2 difficult to obtain. If the proposed construction harms the environment, the
3 utility must restore the environment. If the extension of the utility to the
4 islands expands existing density on the islands, it may not be permitable.

5 Q. In addition to these special permit requirements, are there other
6 package wastewater plants on the Islands?

7 A. Yes. There is the Hideaway Bay wastewater system.

8 Q. Was the Hideaway Bay package plant out of compliance with the FDEP rules
9 and regulations?

10 A. Yes. In 2002, there were some effluent violations.

11 Q Do you believe it is environmentally sound for package plants to connect
12 to a central wastewater collection system?

13 A. Yes. Package plants are difficult to operate consistently and the rules
14 require a lot less operator time for smaller package plants, which affects
15 their operation. If there is a power outage to the plant on the island, that
16 will create a problem. If some large component breaks down, it is difficult
17 to repair or replace due to transportation to the island. In general, it is
18 easier to repair or replace wastewater components on the mainland.

19 Q. Do you believe a central wastewater collection system would be
20 preferable to the use of septic tanks from an environmental stand point?

21 A. Yes. A central wastewater collection system uses a central wastewater
22 treatment system. Central wastewater systems are regulated by the FDEP and
23 are required to remove 90% of the pollutants, which are primarily Biological
24 Oxygen Demand and suspended solids. Central wastewater systems also require
25 disinfection of the effluent. No minimal treatment is required for septic

1 tanks.

2 Q. From an environmental standpoint, do you believe that all of Knight
3 Island, Don Pedro Island, and Little Gasparilla Island would benefit from
4 central wastewater service?

5 A. Yes, it is better to remove the wastewater from the islands, provided
6 that no additional growth and development of the Islands occurs as a result
7 of improved utilities.

8 Q. Would the environmental benefits diminish if only those areas that
9 receive central water service were to receive wastewater service?

10 A. No. Those areas served by septic tanks and effluent disposal generated
11 on the island would be eliminated.

12 Q. Do you have anything further to add?

13 A. No, I do not.

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BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Application for
certificate to provide
wastewater service in Charlotte
County by Island Environmental
Utility, Inc.

DOCKET NO. 020745-WS
FILED: December 15, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the
foregoing Direct Testimony of Abdul Ahmadi, Ph.D., has been
furnished to the following individuals, by U.S. Mail, on this
15th day of December, 2003.

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