

From: Jacob Veaughn on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 9:20 AM
To: 'kristenandcolin@outlook.com'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: FW: Objection to Docket 20200226-SU : Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environment Utilities
Attachments: KCPCR objection to Docket No 20200226-SU.pdf

Good Morning, Colin Sue-A-Quan

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20200226 and forwarding your comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Jacob Veaughn
Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
Jacob.Veaughn@psc.state.fl.us
850.413.6656

From: Kristen & Colin <kristenandcolin@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 10:26 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Cc: mfriedman@deanmead.com
Subject: Objection to Docket 20200226-SU : Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environment Utilities

Please see attached document with our objection to the certificate application by EU.

Thank you,
Colin Sue-A-Quan

KCPCR Island LLC
2890 Bullard Dr
Clearwater, FL 33762
kristenandcolin@outlook.com

Property Address = 9752 Little Gasparilla Island, Placida FL 33946

January 15, 2021

Commission Clerk
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumark Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850
clerk@psc.state.fl.us

Cc: Martin S. Friedman, Esquire
Dean Mead
420 S. Orange Ave
Suite 700
Orlando, FL 32801
mfriedman@deanmead.com

RE: Docket No.20200226-SU Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environment Utilities

Dear Commission Clerk,
We are writing to object to the certificate being granted to Environmental Utilities to provide sewer service. We ask that the Commission probe for additional information to address the concerns of the residents and to get Charlotte County involved.

Here are the points we would like to make...

#1 – Sewer should not be provided by a for profit company especially when the County will be mandating residents to spend their money to connect.

We have a huge concern with a private company with no experience providing sewer service to implement and then handle this ongoing. The communication with the residents has been lackluster, plus the inability to present a design plan, implementation plan with timing and estimated costs raises many questions and creates distrust. It sends a message that EU has either not thought this process through, or that they are trying to hide something from the residents.

Does the EU have the proper financial backing to complete this project? This MUST be provided and verified by the commission, because the last thing anyone wants is for this project to drag on for years

because EU does not have sufficient money to finish and then when it is all said and done, the residents have to pay a higher connection fee due to the delay, mismanagement of the construction process etc.

A project of this magnitude financial, environmental, etc. would be better received by homeowners, if the county was in charge. We urge the commission to see the residents side of this and consider getting Charlotte county more involved in this process before granting the certificate.

#2 – Homes with new septic systems should not be mandated to tie into the new sewer

We are new homeowners to the island and during our buying process, the septic inspection revealed that we need to replace our septic system. We are in the process of replacing our septic system including tank and drain field and will be spending \$20,000. Mandating homeowners with proper working septic systems, especially those that have recently replaced, to immediately connect is a huge financial burden. We would ask that the commission takes this under consideration to exempt those with newer systems or at the very least allow a longer period to connect so the newly installed systems can continue to be used and also create more time to pay for the connection. We are currently facing having to spend \$40k within 4-6 years which is a huge amount of money.

#3 – Upfront unknown immediate cost will be a huge financial burden for the residents

I am sure this comes as no surprise but forcing residents to pay \$20,000 immediately is a huge amount of money and this will lead to some homeowners being forced off the island. I encourage the commission to have Charlotte County work with the residents to defray some of the cost by providing information on grants or creating some sort of assessment or plan to split the costs of multiple years.

#4 – Should the Right of Way easement include sewer lines?

We ask the commission to review the right of way easement on Little Gasparilla Island as our understanding is that only power lines are the only right of way easement, and that there being no utility right of ways for water and sewer. If that is correct, then there is concern that when the drinking water lines were laid that it was done without the homeowners consent and as such laying sewer pipes will require the homeowners approval. This must be addressed and communicated to the residents so that everyone has a fundamental understanding of the law.

#5 – Why are condo associations exempt from connecting?

From what we have gathered, the 2 condo associations on Little Gasparilla do not have to connect to the sewer, so homeowners will demand an explanation for this. Anyone exempted should be accounted for, especially the condos. Their property value, square foot, number of bathrooms, and septic waste volume are NOT significantly less than the stand-alone homes, so taking hundreds of homeowners out of the equation just because they are a condo is not acceptable. We ask the commission to review the exempt group and make a decision on whether this is fair to all the residents.

#6 – Heavy machinery will cause significant damage and potential flooding to the island

The commission must probe EU regarding their construction plan and whether heavy machinery will damage and cause flooding. Who will be accountable for the damage done during the construction process?

In closing we implore you to dig deeper with this review and keep the homeowners are the forefront of your decision because this has a huge impact on the lives of all those impacted. I am not against progress or the environmental study, but simply asking that the commission have the best interest of the residents and not side with a private company that might be looking to take advantage of residents.

If this project is deemed a necessity to the environment, why doesn't the state of Florida, Charlotte county, the EPA, or a government entity spearhead this effort. It should NOT be done by a for profit company.

Thank you for your consideration,



Colin Sue-A-Quan
KCPCR Island LLC