

Lisa Smith

From: Hannah Barker
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 9:51 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 20200226
Attachments: Docket #20200226-SU; Object to the proposal and ask the PSC to deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system. ; Docket #20200226-SU - Objection to Proposal - PSC to deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system; Docket #20200226-SU; EU application for wastewater service docket #20200226-SU; Untitled

Good morning,

Please place the attached emails in Docket No. 20200226. Thank you!

Hannah E. Barker
Executive Assistant to Commissioner Clark
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6004

Lisa Smith

From: Vivian Correa <vcorrea@uncc.edu>
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 1:18 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Records Clerk
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

My name is Vivian I. Correa and I own property on Don Pedro Island, 221 Bocilla Dr, Placida, FL 33946. Over the last year, we have learned that the Environmental Utilities (EU) has applied for the contract to install the proposed central sewer on the island. I am writing to STRONGLY object to the proposal and ask the PSC to deny the application for an Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

My objections include the costs of the proposed installation to include:

- the estimated rate of my monthly residential bill (\$178.78) which is doubled what owners on the mainland pay;
- the costs for me to buy a generator in the event of a power outage;
- the costs to upgrade my main electrical panel;
- the cost to replace the mechanical equipment every 5 years;
- the cost to remove my septic tank;
- and finally and most significantly the estimated hook-up cost of \$13,221!!!!

My objections are not only related to cost but also the fact that EU is NOT a contractor that has ever won a bid to install sewers! I am not confident that EU will be able to manage and maintain this project. There is no performance bond required and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure.

Lastly, there are no data to support that our waters are affected by the current septic. To that end, no water quality testing has been done in our area to prove a need for sewer. This project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species such as the gopher tortoise. The risk of a central sewer leak with a subaqueous crossing is greater than the risk of one or more septic systems developing leaks.

Therefore, I formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service!

Respectfully,
Vivian I. Correa, Ph.D.

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Vivian I. Correa, Ph.D. | Professor Emerita  
Phone: 864-280-1286 |  
vcorrea@uncc.edu

## Lisa Smith

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**From:** Mike Beukema <mike@westraconst.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 12:09 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Palm Island Estates  
**Subject:** Object to the proposal and ask the PSC to deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

Good morning Commissioners LaRosa, Clark and Passidomo. My name is Mike Beukema and I have owned a home on Don Pedro / Knight Island for the past 10 years. I am an owner / President of Heavy Civil / Utility Construction Company in Manatee County Florida. My company has been constructing and installing utilities since 1977 thru ought the Southwest Florida. We have completed several contracts for Florida County municipalities to upgrade and convert the failed private utility companies' infrastructure and incorporate them into their own successfully and properly run systems. As a tax payer I believe that our utilities and infrastructure are best suited to be owned and operated by our local municipalities.

The project that I am concerned about is the Don Pedro / Knight Island Central Sewer project. Docket #20200226-SU. I am formally requesting that the PSC deny EU's application for the wastewater services for the centralized sewer. My concerns and reasoning for my request to deny EU's application are as listed below:

- I believe that a project of this size, magnitude and environmental impacts should be run by an experienced municipal owner with the financial and technical experience necessary to maintain and operate the facilities per all of the DEP, EAP and all other governing entities current requirements and regulations. 100% of the low-pressure force mains, vacuum sewer systems and gravity sewer systems that my company has install over the past 45 year were all for our local municipalities: Manatee Co., City of Bradenton, Sarasota Co., City of Sarasota, Pinellas Co., City of St. Pete., City of Clearwater, City of Tampa, Hillsborough Co., City of Orlando, City of Zolfo Springs, Englewood Water District and City of Cape Coral. Municipal owners have the financial ability and the technical expertise to run and operate their extensive facilities and do so at a fair and equitable rate to the consumer/stakeholders were as I don't believe that EU has the financial ability nor the technical expertise to own and operate such a large facility/infrastructure project.
- The uncertainty of the hookup costs for the homeowners.
- The need for additional electrical work or a separate electrical panel cost.
- The need for a backup generator to ensure that sewage does not back up during an outage.

- The applicant has not addressed a system maintenance and emergency plan. Were as all municipalities are required to have and do so already in place.
- Finally, the environmental impact concern. The Island is truly a slice of old Florida. With its gopher tortoises and native Florida habitat and fauna it is a true gem. This project would potential impact all of that. There will be potential need for tree removal for the installation of the system along with the need for new easements from the residents.

Thank you for your service and your time and also your consideration of my request to deny EU's application Docket #20200226-SU.

Sincerely,

Mike Beukema

**Lisa Smith**

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**From:** Brian Fredley <bfredley@bpfdesign.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 11:54 AM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Clark  
**Subject:** Docket #20200226-SU - Objection to Proposal - PSC to deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system

Commissioner Clark,

Hope you are well,

I am the property owner at 311 Bocilla Drive located on Bocilla or Don Pedro Island in Charlotte County, FL.

I also am the CEO of a Florida Architecture Firm for the last 25 years and clearly understand the application being proposed by Environment Utilities, LLC. For a centralized wastewater sewer system.

We strongly oppose the application for a central sewer by EU, LLC for our small community that currently uses septic systems. We are zoned BBI (Bridges and Barrier Islands) with the intention of the Land Development Code that these are protected lands for single family residential exclusively. We have sand roads, natural vegetation and wildlife that live in harmony on this island with septic being used as the least impact to the environment.

We don't need to invite more development, rezoning attempts or further destruction of these protected lands.

Our septic systems meet the permitting requirements for the state DEP and Charlotte county and provide the services we need, even during power outages. There is no downside for allowing this remote delicate environmental community to continue to operate on permit complying septic systems that offer the least impact to the environment.

The developer that wants to provide centralized sewer cannot provide accurate project cost information or determine the impact to the environment. Most of the lots on this island are already built-out and there are very few new septic systems that still need to be installed to reach 100% capacity.

The proposal to install central sewer does not make any sense other than personal financial gain by the developer. We should not allow this developer (EU, LLC) to build a project for their personal goals and profits. They do not have the financial ability or technical expertise to do this project. They are not proposing a fair and equitable rate or hook up projection in their proposal. Finally, their proposal for shallow sewer will force requirements of lift stations, generators and additional electrical capacity that neither the community nor the resident properties have at this time. This will be a continuous maintenance problem in the future that will not have an ending. This is a poorly designed system and proposal that will force barrier island trees to be removed, equipment to be installed and electrical upgrades to be made that is totally unnecessary.

The All of the residents maintain their septic systems or replace when necessary by code criteria. Our property septic system was just replaced in May and was permitted and inspected with Charlotte County.

**We are formally requesting that the PSC deny the EU's application for wastewater services; especially as proposed.** Giving a private developer this approval of a poorly designed sewer system without jurisdiction oversight and bonding requirements is "unprecedented". Providing easement rights of private properties for a problematic system that is not wanted or needed, should not be allowed.

We call on you to make the right decision in this case, we have so few protected barrier islands in Florida and we need to protect what we have left.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have on my cell phone 386/212-9206

With kind regards, Brian



Brian P. Fredley, President



207 Fairview Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Ph: 386/257-0502 Fx: 386/257-1050 E-mail: [Bfredley@bpfdesign.com](mailto:Bfredley@bpfdesign.com)

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**Lisa Smith**

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**From:** Accon Marine <erica@acconmarine.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 10:54 AM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Clark  
**Subject:** Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Commissioner Clark,

As a homeowner on Palm Island, I am writing to you to formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service on the island. The main reason for our opposition is that it will not be optional for homeowners to hook up to the sewer, causing homeowners tens of thousands of dollars in mandatory costs. This includes a massive hook-up fee, as well as fees for an electrician to come hook everything up. In addition, salt air takes a heavy toll on mechanical and electrical equipment here. Equipment will need replacing when it fails, possibly at 5-year intervals. This proposal places too much responsibility on the homeowner at too great a cost. Our home has a brand new septic tank that we just had installed, at a very large cost. We prefer to stay on septic.

Also, the power goes out quite frequently on the island, and it is our understanding that the sewer grinder pump will not be able to function for very long without power, which could cause sewage backups.

We are also concerned that with the addition of sewer, developers will come in and ruin the quaint little island we all know and love. We have enough Clearwater/Miami/Daytona/Panama City beaches in Florida. Please help us keep the "old Florida" vibe on the island that we all know and love.

Best Regards,  
Erica Ring

470 N Gulf  
Placida, FL

**Lisa Smith**

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**From:** Kathysickles <kathysickles@optonline.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 10:47 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**Subject:** EU application for wastewater service docket #20200226-SU

My name is Kathleen Sickles and I am the owner of property on Don Pedro Island,  
130 Kettle Harbor Drive.

I am formally requesting that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service For the following reasons:  
-The potential expenses to homeowners on the island verses those in the county on the mainland -The unknown expenses for the project -Being retired, this will be a financial burden in all areas of development -The expertise of EU is questionable -Environmental concerns

Please consider the above  
Thank you,

Kathleen Sickles  
Kathysickles@optonline.net

Sent from my iPad



**Lisa Smith**

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**From:** eap <eileenap@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 9:51 AM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Clark

I am writing this letter to strongly object to the proposal of a central water system on Palm Island. I am asking you to please deny the Application for Original Certification of Authorization. Thank you for your concern.

Eileen Pyle  
42 Palm Dr  
Placida, FL. 33946

mailing address:  
8725 Placida Rd  
Ste 7-102  
Placida, FL 33956