

**Antonia Hover**

**From:** Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022 1:33 PM  
**To:** 'joe.noto@comcast.net'  
**Cc:** Consumer Contact  
**Subject:** RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Good Afternoon, Joe Noto.

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

Thank you!

*Toni Hover*

*Commission Deputy Clerk I  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
Phone: (850) 413-6467*

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**From:** joe.noto@comcast.net <joe.noto@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022 1:28 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>; Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>  
**Cc:** joe.noto@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Joe Noto and I live at 181 N. Gulf Blvd. #10, Placida, Florida 33946 on Palm Island. Please read my numerous concerns below and so that you understand why **I strongly oppose the central sewer system as proposed by Environmental Utilities.**

1. I do not see the need for this service at this time.
  - a. No water quality testing has been done in our area to prove a need for a central sewer system.
  - b. This project could very easily have a negative impact on, and interfere with the habitat of endangered species such as the gopher tortoise.
  - c. The risk of a central sewer leak into the intercoastal waterway seems greater than the risk of one or more septic systems developing leaks.

2. I am concerned about the ability of Environmental Utilities to financially handle this project, and adequately maintain such a system.
  - a. I have not been provided any information about the financial history, stability or viability of Environmental Utilities and their management team.
3. I am also concerned as to whether Environmental Utilities has the technical expertise and capability to handle such a project.
  - a. EU is not a contractor that has won a bid to install sewer.
  - b. There is no performance bond required, and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure.
  - c. It is my understanding that Environmental Utilities has not provided adequate information on how the system will be serviced in the event of failure during a storm or other adverse conditions.
  - d. What experience do they have with other wastewater systems?
4. I am concerned about the hook up and monthly service costs
  - a. Initially hookup was estimated to be \$20,000 and subsequently it was reduced to approximately \$13,000. This makes me wonder if that lower number is valid or was provided only to quell complaints they were hearing.
  - b. It is my understanding that the average monthly bill is estimated to be somewhere around \$178. This is twice the cost of monthly sewer AND water in Rotunda.
  - c. I am also concerned about the cost I will have to incur to install a separate electrical panel.
  - d. In the case of a power outage which we experience frequently, I'm concerned the system's grinder pump will not be able to function for long. I would need a generator to ensure there was no sewage back up during the power outage.
  - e. I am concerned about the life of the equipment installed by Environmental Utilities and their ability to maintain it. This could result in future upcharges to homeowners because of the needed repair costs
5. Also, it is my understanding that most utility easements are placed in the road right-of-way. EU has claimed ownership of a utility easement that will go from the sewer equipment, located near the house to the connection in the road without compensating me. It's my property and if they want an easement they should pay for it.

So, the central sewer system proposed by Environmental Utilities will have a significant impact on me, a homeowner in the proposed service area. As such, **I am formally requesting that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service.**

Sincerely,

Joe Noto

[joe.noto@comcast.net](mailto:joe.noto@comcast.net)

574-904-7224