

Lisa Smith

From: Hannah Barker
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 9:06 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket Correspondence
Attachments: Docket #20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU; Re Docket #20200226-SU; Docket # 20200226-S; Docket #20200226-SU; Docket # 20200226 -SU; Request to Deny EU's Application for Original Certificate of Authorization Docket #20200226-SU; Docket # 20200226-SU; Untitled; Docket# 20200226

Good morning,

Please place the attached emails in Docket No. 20200226.

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: linda kornicki <beachbumsforever@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 6:54 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

We object to the proposal and ask the PSC to deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization

Peter and Linda Kornicki
beachbumsforever@gmail.com
7277 Rum Bay Drive
Placida Florida 33946

Sent from my iPhone

Linda 📧 📍 us

Lisa Smith

From: sln5685@comcast.net
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 3:29 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Commissioner.LaRossa@psc.state.fl.us;
Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Commissioners,

I currently own, along with my husband Joe, a home at 181 North Gulf Blvd. in case you are unsure where this property is, it is on Palm Island/Knight Island.

We are being handed a no win situation for homeowners. We are being told that there needs to be a sewer system on this island and it needs to be done immediately. However, there has been absolutely no evidence, information, documentation or any such hard reason for this "necessary" immediate sewer system. We as home owners have never been given documented evidence that this immediate sewer proposal has any viability. There has only been a few SUGGESTIONS of costs that have ranged from \$13,000 per household to somewhere as high as \$24,000 per household but we have basically been told , "who knows" and are now supposed to agree to this that quasi proposal. To the best of my knowledge, there has not been any site assessments, environmental impact studies, documented reason(s) for such urgent need, or proposed timing for completion. I am beginning to wonder if this proposed private system even has the approval from Charlotte County or the State of Florida. We have never had any documentation that leads me to believe that Environmental Utilities has any experience in the installation, or maintenance of any waste water system EVER. As far as I can find there is no evidence that leads me to believe that Environmental Utilities has ever done anything along these lines, yet we are asked to accept their proposal. Where is the evidence of their ability to prove that they will not start and go bankrupt, price gouge, or even complete the project that will be in 100% compliance with the sanitary codes of Charlotte County or the State of Florida. If this information does exist, it certainly has not been made easily available to the general public. There isn't even a performance bond offered as good faith to the owners of this beautiful island. Have you noticed the lack of evidence?

Then there is the nightmare that appears to be valid if there is a power outage that the proposed wastewater system would only be functional for a short period of time before we would be mired in sewage. Talk about a biohazard for all residences. What about the environmental impact of that? Personally, I am not certain how anyone would willingly submit their valuable property to an untried, apparent money grabber evidenced by a company that proposes a monthly fee of approximately \$178, which is more than Rotunda residences pay for water AND sewer. Why would anyone agree to such unreasonable terms?

Finally there is a potential expensive upgrade to electrical systems for homes, at the owners expense, plus a potential destruction of landscape and private property. There has been no evidence or information that addresses all of these concerns for me, my husband and almost every person on this island. I have heard nothing from Environmental Utilities regarding help with financial costs, especially for those who are on fixed incomes. We are not all wealthy on this island contrary to some beliefs.

Here is a summary of items that have little or no documentation or explanation:

1. Documented environmental impact statements
2. Real costs to home owners for:
 1. Initial hook up

2. Damage to property
3. Upgrading of electrical systems
4. Monthly cost of sewerage alone not including water costs
5. Potential requirement for generators, also at the homeowner's expense
3. Utility easements – EU has claimed ownership of a utility easement beginning at the house and going to the point of connection on the road at the homeowners expense.
4. Destruction of nesting sites and habitats for endangered species such as gopher turtles,
5. No evidence of any plan for maintenance of lines, the system, whatever that may be, or equipment to keep the system running Yet there is a potential of homeowners incurring outrageous monthly bills.
6. What about the potential leakage of the lines that may or may not be properly installed under the inter coastal waterway?
7. The cost to the homeowners for the destruction of a perfectly maintained and functioning septic system.
8. There is going to be an unreasonable cost to homeowners that do not live on the island full time, but will have to incur the onerous proposed cost to them.

Let me ask you, would you want to have this organization doing major sanitary work in your neighborhood? I am guessing not!

For all the reasons listed and detailed in this letter, **I am formally requesting that the PSC DENY EU's application for wastewater service.**

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Sincerely,

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Susan Noto
181 North Gulf Boulevard
574-315-2654
Susan Noto
sln5685@comcast.net

Lisa Smith

From: Jaime Daniels <jldiva123@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 2:27 PM
To: Consumer Contact; Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; debbidaniels1@verizon.net
Subject: Re: Docket #20200226-SU

James, Debra, and Jaime Daniels
511 18th Ave SE
Ruskin, FL 33570

January 22, 2022

Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket #20200226-SU

Commissioners of the Public Service Commission:

We are the Daniels Family and property owners at 9696 Little Gasparilla Island (LGI). Our family has owned our lovely home on this barrier island since 1965. Our daughter Jaime is the third generation to be raised on the island. Our ties to LGI run strong and deep. We love our island dearly, and as islanders we know the long-term environmental, and financial burdens proposed for a central sewer system by Environment Utilities (EU) are not in the best interests for our island or its residents.

Our family formally objects and requests that PSC denies Environment Utilities (EU) application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

We are formally requesting that you deny EU's application for the following reasons:

1. Uncertain Hookup Costs
2. Average Residential Bill estimated roughly double to be what a mainlander pays
3. The system pump requires a separate electrical panel that will have to be installed by a licensed electrician at the expense of the owner
4. Due to frequent loss of electricity during storms, most islanders would have to purchase a generator due to the grinder pump limiting the capacity at 60 gallons, causing the system to backup and not function properly possibly leading to overflows, leakages, and environmental damage
5. Landscaping and hardscaping will need to be cleared around septic area on the expense of owner to gain access to crush and fill existing septic tanks
6. Property Owners may need to take loans to cover the costs of connection for mandatory hookups. Charlotte Co. regulations require all homes to connect to central water and waste water within 1-year of availability
7. No grandfathering of septic systems regardless of age or condition
8. EU is not a contractor that has won a bid to install sewer and has no history with waste/sewer management
9. There is no recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure
10. Some properties have physical constraints that will complicate how EU gains access to the property without leaving the boundaries or damaging the grounds
11. This in some cases will also cause environmental damage to protected species such as the sea grape plants, gopher tortoise homes/habitats, etc.
12. We are a bridgeless barrier island with no infrastructure and no means to support a project of this magnitude
13. No water quality testing has been done in our area to prove a need for sewer and the destruction of our current septic tanks, some of which are new.

14. The potential of a sewer spill in the Intracoastal with a subaqueous crossing is greater than the risk of one or more septic systems developing leaks and needing to be repaired or replaced.

15. Salt air takes a heavy toll on mechanical and electrical equipment on our island, and places too much responsibility on the homeowner at too great a cost.

Once again, for these reasons, and many more, we as long-time homeowners of LGI implore you to deny EU's application for the proposed central sewer system on our beautiful island.

Thank you,

The Daniels Family

Lisa Smith

From: Brad Cooke <cbcooke@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 2:11 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: Docket #20200226-S

Dear Commissioner Clark,

My name is Charles Cooke and I am a recent property owner on Don Pedro Island. My wife and I are Florida natives and after years of searching for a second home property fell in love with the old Florida charm of the island. I am extremely concerned about the possibility of EU providing private sewer service to the island. There are not appropriate controls in place to protect the residents of this island if this applicant is permitted to control a private sewer system. The applicant does not have experience operating such a system and also will have too much ability to pass down unknown costs to the property owners. There has not been proven scientific reason for the installation for such a system.

I urge you to deny the EU application to provide private wastewater service to our island. If this project were to move forward it would represent the PSC enabling an unnecessary infrastructure project that will ultimately be paid by property owners who have no interest in the service.

Thank you for your careful attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Charles Cooke

Cbcooke@gmail.com

Lisa Smith

From: Donald Scattergood <dscattergood@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 12:46 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Cc: Jacqueline Scattergood
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Commissioners -

We are writing in **support** of the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for installation of a wastewater management system on Little Gasparilla Island by Environmental Utilities.

Our names are Donald J. Scattergood and Jacqueline C. Scattergood. We are full time residents of Little Gasparilla Island, and own two properties on the island - 9512 Don Jose Court (our residence) and 9514 Don Jose Court. My wife Jacqueline C. Scattergood and I first purchased our property in 2003, and have lived full-time on the island since 2007. We are among the longest-term full-time residents here.

Our house was completed in 2007, and as such was required to use an ATU-type septic system. The system has required continual maintenance and repair, including re-construction of the drain field in 2020 due to root encroachment. As full time residents, we are in a position to maintain the system as required.

We are the exception. The great majority of septic systems on the island have had NO maintenance since we have lived here. In fact, in discussions of the work we've done on our system, many property owners brag that they've never even had their system pumped. This is particularly concerning since, on our easement (Jose's Hideaway), a number of the houses have septic fields installed below grade. The smell during flooding is eye-watering. Many of these houses are rentals, often with large groups (10-12 people), and often when there are known issues in their septic systems.

Jack Boyer and Little Gasparilla Water Utility have been instrumental in improving quality of life here on the island. He is responsive, well trained, proactive, and provides a service that frankly makes living on the island possible. The conversion from well water / RO water to the connection to the county water system improved overall water quality, reliability and water pressure dramatically, and is a great example of the way Jack and his team continually improve service. Jack has been on the island longer than we have, and always has the best interest of the island properties at heart.

Our water is expensive here, it's true. But so is maintaining our fire department, maintaining our roads, and every other aspect of life on a bridgeless barrier island. Jack Boyer has been a good steward of our environment and our lifestyle, and we support him in the much needed conversion to a septic system.

We formally request that Environmental Utilities' application for wastewater services be APPROVED.

Below are some pictures indicative of the types of septic systems that exist on our small easement. Most of the island is worse.

Sincerely,
Donald J. Scattergood - dscattergood@gmail.com

Jacqueline C. Scattergood - teams catt@gmail.com
9512 Don Jose Court, Little Gasparilla Island
PO Box 3760
Placida, FL 33946

Lisa Smith

From: pbholmes0@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 12:25 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket # 20200226 -SU

Gentlemen:

I, Barbara Holmes, have been a full time resident of Little Gasparilla Island for the past twenty seven years. My property is located at 9496 Alborado. I formally object to the certification for this proposed sewer. I request that the PSC deny EU's application for waste water treatment on LGI.

1. Duty of county to provide wastewater service if needed and that need has not been determined
2. Homeowner would own grinder\$\$\$ which lasts approximately 5 years
Other significant expenses involved with grinder defrayed to homeowner
County would use vacuum system
3. Sewage backup extremely likely with grinder system due to frequent power outages
Hurricanes/tropical storms could cause weeks of power outages
Generators expensive and unreliable
4. No pro rating on connection fees!!!
Some homeowners forced to sell or put lien on property
5. Potential of sewer pipes being broken a serious threat
No roads, only sandy golf cart paths where heavy construction equipment and workmens' motorized vehicles are prevalent
6. Cost of water from EU higher than almost anywhere else in Florida
(over \$110 per month)
7. EU wastewater service estimated at \$178.78 per month
Rotonda pays roughly half that for both water and wastewater service!!!

Respectfully,

Barbara Holmes
pbholmes0@gmail.com

Sent from Mail for Windows

Lisa Smith

From: Sally B Johnson <sbjohnson3@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 10:52 AM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Subject: Request to Deny EU's Application for Original Certificate of Authorization Docket # 20200226-SU

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Sally Johnson. I live on Knight Island at 120 N Gulf Blvd. I have lived on Knight Island for almost 20 years. We live on a canal off the Intercoastal. Need for sewers?

Our home has 2 residents. Our neighbors on both sides and across the street also have 2 people residing in their homes. We leave for a period of time in the summer as do our neighbors. I bring this up because we have very low impact on our septic system. Most of the on Island lots are single family dwellings. Our septic systems were all inspected and approved by Charlotte County. Our canal is clear, clean fish jumping, dolphins, occasional manatees and dozens of birds. No water testing has been done to prove a need for a sewer. A more dangerous event would be the potential for a sewer spill into the intercoastal from a broken waste water pipe being pumped under the water.

Competence:

My Objection to EU is also about competence. There is NO prior experience in this area. This is a major undertaking costing multiple millions. Should a novice be in charge? He has run the water company on Gasparilla Island with MANY furious customer complaints.

Would you want an unproven Dr. to perform a complicated surgery on you? This is a major undertaking and we don't want an beginner in charge.

Please deny EU's proposal.

Thank you.

Sally Johnson

Sbjohnson3@gmail.com

Lisa Smith

From: pbholmes0@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 10:07 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Gentlemen:

I, Paul Holmes, have been a full time resident of Little Gasparilla Island for the past twenty seven years. My property is located at 9496 Alborado. I formally object to the certification for this proposed sewer. I request that the PSC deny EU's application for waste water treatment on LGI.

Jack Boyer has never installed a sewer system and should not start with one as complicated as a bridgeless barrier island. The lack of rightaways, regular power outages, no roads to follow, hurricanes, etc. would present challenges to an experienced sewer operator and should not be attempted by a neophyte. If Charlotte County wants a sewer system out here, they should take responsibility for it as they have in most of the rest of the County.

I would strongly urge y'all to visit our little section of "old Florida" and see what I mean. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Paul Holmes

Sent from Mail for Windows

Lisa Smith

From: rhapsodyballroom@aol.com
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:59 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Attachments: don pedro sewer letter.rtf

Lisa Smith

From: nina stokes <ninadv3399@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 8:21 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Kit Kat; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman Fay
Subject: Docket# 20200226

January, 21, 2022

Clerk of the Commission
Commissioner LaRosa
Commissioner Clark
Commissioner Passidomo
Commissioner Graham
Commissioner Fay

Dear Commissioners,

We have owned our home on Little Gasparilla Island at 8892 Gulf St. since 1999. We love and cherish our beautiful piece of paradise, and our grandchildren love fishing off our dock in the beautiful bay waters. We are writing to express our concern about Environmental Utilities, the private, start up inexperienced company that is seeking a wastewater certificate from the Commission. We are very thankful for your time reading and your close attention to all the ongoing concerns of hundreds of homeowners about EU's application. We are formally requesting that you deny this application for so many reasons as follows.

First, let me say that it is my understanding that Charlotte County was not going to address sewer issues on our barrier island until 2029 if then. There were financial reasons including having to take over other private companies that had failed to complete projects. If sewers are needed, Charlotte County should be the one in charge.

We have so many questions about EU's ability to undertake a project of this magnitude, of their financial ability, their management ability, their maintenance ability, their educational and technical ability and their ETHICS!

To begin, As far as need for service, there has not been water quality testing done by EU to show a need for sewer service. Bay waters in the Charlotte County watershed are tested from private docks at sunrise every month for the DEP (52 volunteers at 52 sites) and calibrated and transported to the mainland to be analyzed. if there were any significant problems they would have been published and made known to the public. As the Distinguished Professor from the University of South Florida, Dr. Robert Weisberg, testified in written material submitted to the Commission on 11/23/21, there is no evidence that red tide is caused by septic as Mr. Boyer claims. He says, I'm after a detailed explanation of the causes of Redtide, "Environmental Utilities cites no scientific support for the proposition that the on site septic tanks exacerbate red tide and algae outbreaks on the barrier island region of concern". He further notes " It is noted that EU's application for sewer lines and delivery is to a Charlotte County connection versus a complete sewer system. Thus a failure of the county system could be exacerbated by the flow from EU further burdening the county system prior to upgrading which may be counter productive with respect to the Sewer Master Plan. "

Looking at environmental concerns involved with EU's project, all the large equipment, and digging which will be involved in the installation are cause for concern for our endangered gopher tortoises , burrowing owls plus the ospreys and our magnificent eagles which nest in our pines. We've seen no mention of needed permits for dealing with these.

A large number of homeowners on LGI are just becoming aware of EU's request and the implications of it being granted. There has been so much secrecy on finances (EU submitted Scores of documents asking for confidentiality) and misinformation on need for service. EU has never installed a sewer system. The principals , own Little Gasparilla water company and there has been so much controversy about that company, as I'll note later.

EU has two employees, Mr. and Mrs. Boyer and reportedly their son who is said to be taking "sewer classes". Questions are where is EU's place of business other than their home? Where would all necessary equipment to do the project be stored? What are the true facts about finances? There is no contract and no single point of general oversight. Of Great importance is Why is there no performance bond? EU Is an LLC and in case of an environmental spill there is no available public help? Homeowners will have no recourse if there are cost overruns (which is Very possible considering everything has to be barged to the island and the barge moves when the operator feels like it). All cost overruns will be passed on the homeowners.,

We were at first told the cost could be \$20,000 per homeowner, with maybe some grants possible , and that if we protested, we'd pay even more! Now it appears the estimated cost is \$11,928 hook up fee, \$55.32 per 10000 gallons, \$1,299.85 installation fee, \$30 installation connection fee and a Whopping cost of \$ 201.04 PER MONTH! In addition it says "initial deposit should be equal to average charge for wastewater for two months based on approved final rates". Is that \$ 402.08? No mention of grants to help pay costs now and no provision to pay over time. Many homeowners will have to secure loans to pay these costs.

Homeowners may have to have a new electric panel to handle the new equipment needed. In the event of power outages, which happens Very often, (the last one was 19 hours a couple weeks ago but some have been a few days) generators will be needed to keep the system running to avoid sewage back ups. Can you imagine the smell, noise, pollution in addition to the fuel needed to run them? If a hurricane came and there was no power for days, it would be a disaster! EU offers no plans for this kind of emergency or for possible sewage spills in the intercostal waterway.

Finally, in addressing technical ability, and questioning if it is in the best interest of the public for EU to be granted this certificate, ethics and honesty need to be looked at. I'm sure you have read and are aware of the documented dishonesty of the owner of EU. He illegally took, stole, water from Palm Island State Park and ran it to his water company on Little Gasparilla Island, a felony for which he was fined. Then more controversy for the water company when he was caught for performing plumbing work without a license or permit and for then connecting homes to his water without a permit. Some work had to be redone due to use of wrong equipment. He was fined for three homes but admitted to a group of homeowners (myself included) and two Charlotte County water employees that he had hooked up 100 ! In addition, he didn't pay all required "tap in" fees in a timely manner until called out by Charlotte County. There were times when the water system broke down for various reasons and customers were not informed of the necessity to boil water, a health and safety hazard. Property taxes on his water facility were in arrears several years and certificates bought. With all Mr. Boyer's history, It is shocking that Charlotte County Commissioners gave the right to him to apply for the wastewater certificate. The only difference is that he now works under a different company name.

Thank you again for reading our input and concerns. We trust you will see the need to deny Environmental Utilities' application as there are so many questions about the company.

Sincerely,

Kathleen and Roy Stokes

Sent from Mail for Windows