

Lisa Smith

From: Hannah Barker
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 2:30 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket Correspondence
Attachments: RE Docket#20200226-SU; RE Palm Island Sewer; RE Docket #20200226SU; RE SUBJECT Docket #20200226-SU Notice of Objection to the Central Sewer System Proposal for Palm Island and Request the PSC to Deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization the Proposed Central Sewer System for Palm Island; RE Docket# 20200226-SU; RE Docket #20200226-SU; RE Docket # 20200226-us; RE Little Gasparilla Sewer; RE Docket #20200226-SU; RE Docket #20200226-SU

Good afternoon,

Please place the attached emails in Docket No. 20200226.

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

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 1:21 PM
To: 'Richard Collett'
Subject: RE: Docket#20200226-SU

Dear Mr. Collett,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC– Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to FloridaPSC.com, where it will be live streamed.

Thank you, again, for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

From: Richard Collett <rhapsodyballroom@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 6:04 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket#20200226-SU

From Richard J. Collett, property owner on Don Pedro Island (Colony Don Pedro unit #8; also 50 S. Gulf Blvd)

I hereby formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service, based on the arguments in opposition to the proposed central sewer system as listed below.

I have been an owner on this beautiful island for over thirty years. My love for this special place is based on the unforgettable memories of wildlife, ocean and the fellowship of friends that we have met over the years. I can't count the many times this fantastic getaway has helped released the stress of life's burdens.

I just cannot even think of the unimaginable upheaval and disruption that the incredible noise of heavy equipment, the endless digging, and dramatic traffic disruption that full time residence and vacation renters will have to endure for months or, yes, even years. But I personally believe that the most damage will be done to the other residents of this island, the wildlife. The biggest thing that makes this island so very special is seeing things like a gopher tortoise snacking on vegetation or as simple as rabbits with their offspring enjoying a morning adventure. Not to mention the numerous species of birds that have called this island home for so many years. It will not take much to disrupt this delicate balance

of nature. Past history tells us that once it has been disrupted by, yet again, man's desire to change something that does not need changing, it will never be the same.

The thirty plus years I have been coming to this island I have yet to hear of problems with the septic systems that is in place. I did have to address the septic system on my property once, and that was due to the drain field being clogged by roots. Which brings up the point that I now have a new drain field and septic tank at a cost of approximately \$17,000. If this proposal is approved what am I to do with a perfectly good septic system? Will EU reimburse me for a 1 year old system, or will they just dig it up and haul it away, in the name of "progress?"

The cost that has been mentioned in this proposal would most likely force many long term owners to abandon their dream. The cost of living for property owners on the island is extreme as it is. The upfront costs as well as future expenses proposed would place an extreme financial burden to each family. All of this to replace a system that has worked perfectly, just as it was intended to, because a company that really has no track record in safety or in financial stability, wants to do it. Once they completely disrupt what is now a beautiful and peaceful island, they will move on and leave the residents with the full responsibility of physically and financially maintaining their "new and improved system". As anyone can tell you, these last few years have been taxing on everyones pocketbook. This company is telling us that we must come up with large sums of money up front and who knows how much in "special assessments" for unexpected maintenance due to corrosion and mechanical and electrical breakdowns for years to come. They are also taking away part of our property to make room for the laying of the sewer pipes. My question is simple. Why go through this horrendous change when it really is not needed? Again, I state, that I have been a property owner for over thirty years. I have two properties on the island and I have never heard of anyone, from other owners, renters or property managers having problems with our current sewer system.

Therefore, based on the arguments above, I hereby formally request that the PSC deny the EU's application for wastewater service. The overall impact on our livelihood both emotionally and financially, the devastation of the wildlife and overall uniqueness of our island makes this, I believe, a very easy decision to make.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Collett

Rhapsodyballroom@aol.com

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 1:21 PM
To: 'James Davis'
Subject: RE: Palm Island Sewer

Dear Mr. James,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC– Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to FloridaPSC.com, where it will be live streamed.

Thank you, again, for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

-----Original Message-----

From: James Davis <drjwdavis@mac.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 4:53 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Palm Island Sewer

Hello,

I am a home owner on Don Pedro Island and would like to express my opposition to the proposed sewer service.

The opacity on the finances of this company and the proposed project are a concern. We are giving them a blank check to charge us whatever they want to install the sewer and the opportunity to change us any thing that they want to in reoccurring charges. They have no experience in a project of this scope and no track record of even finishing what they have started.

If sewers are needed, there has to be a better way to go about it than to hire a company with no technical expertise for such a project.

I also do not feel the need for sewers on the island has been established. There seems to be no benefit to the homeowners who will fund the cost of the entire project. The needs of the island need to be determined by a company that is not going to profit from the sewer system.

Please deny EU's application for wastewater service

Thank You

James W and Christie Davis

161 S Gulf Blvd

Placida, FL 33946

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 1:20 PM
To: 'quaintfox@aol.com'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226SU

Dear Ms. Harvie,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC– Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to FloridaPSC.com, where it will be live streamed.

Thank you, again, for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

From: quaintfox@aol.com <quaintfox@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 4:45 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; 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>
Subject: Docket #20200226SU

From:
Catherine Harvie
9878 Little Gasparilla Island
Placida, FL 33946

Quaintfox@aol.com
407 694 5816

January 23, 2022

To: Florida Public Service Commission

2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee,
FL 32399-0850

Dear Commissioners of the Public Service Commission,

I am a property owner at 9878 Little Gasparilla Island Placida FL 33946 which is a property within the service area of the proposed central sewer system (hereafter referred to as "project"), Docket #20200226SU. I formally object to and request that PSC deny Environment Utilities (EU) application for Original Certificate of Authorization for the proposed central sewer system.

Installation of proposed central sewer system will impose multiple hardships on the property owners on the LGI both financially, and logistically as well as have a potential for causing environmental damage.

Original estimate of hook-up cost for the project was about \$20K per unit. Even though after the rates and tariffs were finally submitted by the applicant, the requested Service Availability Charge per ERC was reduced to total estimated \$13,221, other financial and logistical consideration cannot be ignored.

Every homeowner on the LGI will be obligated to pay a monthly sewer ONLY bill in the amount currently estimated at \$178.78. This amount is basically two times the amount of what residents pay in Rotonda, the closest to LGI mainland location, and for Rotonda residents their bill includes BOTH water and sewer. In the meantime, the average cost to EU per unit per month is \$97.18.

Due to installation on a barrier island the project will not utilize central pump stations and each owner will be required to have individual "grinder" pumps installed which is an additional cost ranging from \$1,100 to over \$6,000 per pump (here are a couple of sample pricing/requirements, we are not sure which exact grinder pump would be required by project installers [Liberty Pumps 2448LSG202 \\$5,807.76 Grinder Package, Simplex | Zoro.com](#), [Gol Pumps Sewage-Grinder Pump, 460V, 3PH, 3in., SS304, Max. Flow 20640 GPH, Horsepower 7-1/2 HP, Port Size 3 in, Model# GPQ-732 | Northern Tool](#), [Liberty Pumps PRG102M \\$1,155.75 Grinder Pump, Manual, 230V | Zoro.com](#)). Moreover, a "grinder" pump requires a dedicated 230-240V electrical panel installed by a licensed electrician at owner's expense, and if the owner has maxed out their main electric grid with other large-draw items, the panel will need an expensive upgrade to accommodate the new panel.

Grinder pumps have limited capacity (typically, 60 gal), so if there is a power outage, which happens on LGI A LOT and often for prolonged periods of time (sometimes for over a week, if it's due to a large storm) the pump will get over filled and cause sewage back up. This can be avoided by installing a back-up power generator, however this is another cost from about \$700 for a manual start generator to over \$10,000 for a stand-by one. Given that a lot of owners on the LGI don't live there full time, and even those who do live on LGI full-time are under evacuation orders during hurricanes that cause lengthy power outages, manual start generators are not an option since there would be no one to start them. Stand-by ones are exponentially more costly and their installation involves even more costs and logistical difficulties due to frequent flooding during high tides and storms.

Project installation would also require mandatory hook-up as per Charlotte County regulations within 1 year of availability with no grandfathering of existing septic tanks even if they are of recent installation. Homeowners would find themselves financially responsible for removing and crushing and filling the septic area regardless of septic tank age and/or condition as well as clearing landscape/removing trees to gain access for septics to be removed.

With all these costs required to hook up to the project and no pay-overtime plans homeowners may be forced to take personal loans to cover the lump-sum costs of connection to the project regardless of their financial circumstances/ability to pay these loans back on time.

Moreover, some properties have access constraints (such as no road to the property), permanently or semi-permanently submerged immediately adjacent grounds, etc. that will further complicate how applicant gains access for project installation without leaving a single property boundaries or causing structural and/or environmental damage. Most current utility easements are located in the road right-of way. The applicant (EU) has claimed ownership of a utility easement solely for the purpose of the project that will go from the sewer equipment, located near the house to the connection in the road without compensating the homeowner, causing further financial damages to homeowners by negatively affecting their property values.

Applicant is NOT a contractor and has NOT won a bid to install a sewer. Homeowners have no say in who will be contracted for the project installation. Applicant has the right to outsource the installation to a contractor of their choice, no performance bond is required, so there is no single point of recourse for the homeowners in case of project failure. Moreover, multiple agencies (County, DEP, etc.) are responsible for their specific areas under regulation/permitting, which creates a nightmare for determining the exact entity to be held responsible if the project runs on of money or fails entirely.

If the project installation is successfully completed the homeowners are still facing problematic system maintenance issues and emergency repairs. At this point the applicant has not addressed how the project will be serviced for regular maintenance issues or emergency failures/repairs due to weather and/or other adverse conditions. By being located on a barrier island the equipment is exposed to harsh environmental factors such as salt air and increased humidity as well as frequent flooding during high tides and/or storms which greatly reduces the life of equipment. For instance, average exterior A/C unit lasts about 5 years. The project equipment will likely need replacing about every 5 years as well at homeowners' responsibility and expense.

Additionally, no water quality testing has been done in our area to prove a need for sewer. Construction activities required to install the project will negatively affect the habitat and interfere with endangered species such as the gopher tortoise. Widespread construction and vehicle access will also damage the protected plant species of sea grapes and sea oats which, in turn, protect the dunes that form the barrier Little Gasparilla Island from erosion. Destroying dune-stabilizing plants will expose the properties to greater damage during storm and high tide flooding. For comparison: just to install a wooden dune walk-over requires DEP permitting and the installer must ensure that such walk-over does not damage the dunes and the stabilizing plants. Imagine what havoc would a sewer installation wreak on a barrier island with just golf cart or pedestrian use-created paths, no paved roads, or current vehicle access!

In the event of damage to the project equipment a sewer spill will pollute the adjacent waters of the Gulf and the Intracoastal. We just had that happen in the Tampa area when their sewage system failed ([60,000 gallons of wastewater overflow into Tampa Bay waterways | wtsp.com](http://www.wtsp.com)). That will damage the environment much more that a subaqueous crossing from one or more septic systems that develop leaks.

To summarize: this project imposes a great financial burden and too much responsibility on homeowners. In addition it causes tremendous logistical difficulties and has a grave potential for large-scale environmental damage. For these reasons, I formally object to and request that PSC deny Environment Utilities (EU) application for Original Certificate of Authorization for the proposed central sewer system.

Respectfully,

Catherine Harvie

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 1:20 PM
To: 'robert.der.der@gmail.com'
Subject: RE: SUBJECT: Docket #20200226-SU Notice of Objection to the Central Sewer System Proposal for Palm Island and Request the PSC to Deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization the Proposed Central Sewer System for Palm Island

Dear Mr. Der,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC– Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to FloridaPSC.com, where it will be live streamed.

Thank you, again, for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

From: robert.der.der@gmail.com <robert.der.der@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 4:25 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: SUBJECT: Docket #20200226-SU Notice of Objection to the Central Sewer System Proposal for Palm Island and Request the PSC to Deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization the Proposed Central Sewer System for Palm Island

My name is Robert Der and I own a home and reside on Palm Island at:

171 South Gulf Boulevard
Placida, FL 33946-3294

My mailing address is:

P.O. Box 3294
Placida, FL 33946-3294

I am writing you to formally object to the proposed central sewer system for waste water service for Palm Island and request the PSC to deny the Environmental Utilities (EU) Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for the Proposed a Central Sewer System which includes Palm Island. Please understand that Palm Island is a bridgeless barrier island where access is only by a small ferry/barge system with very limited capability to transport large and heavy equipment that will be required for the project. This would significantly increase the project timing and cost and significantly reduce the ability of the islanders to get on and off the island during construction. I think this application lacks sufficient detail and analysis from an inexperienced small operator with a questionable reputation. I believe EU is hoping to obtain approval of the application and flipping it to another company for a quick profit. I formally request that you reject or deny EU's Application for Original Certificate or Authorization for the Proposed a Central Sewer System for the following reasons:

1. NEED FOR SERVICE. I am not aware of any scientific or environmental studies have ever been conducted to determine that there is a need for a central sewer system for Palm Island. I am a seasonal resident of Palm Island and am here only just over six months a year. Many home owners, including renters, stay on Palm Island much less than six months a year. I estimate that the total occupancy duration for our homes, including renters for the rental homes, would average substantially less than six months, probably closer to three months, per year. Palm Island has primarily residential properties with only Palm Island Resort (Resort) at the north end of Knight Island as the ONLY commercial entity on the island. The Resort consists of privately owned condo units and homes for rent as well as some owner occupied private residences with a restaurant and a couple of small shops. There are no additional stores, restaurants or other businesses that would dictate a need for a centralized municipal sewage treatment facility. Palm Island Resort owns and operates its own sewage treatment facility. The Resort and sewage facility should continue to provide for and take care of the Resort's needs. While the Palm Island homes have been on septic systems for years, the local water has been periodically tested and the results consistently do not show that the current residential septic systems are negatively impacting the water quality and local environment. I believe a possible leak from the proposed underwater pipeline carrying the waste material poses a much higher risk. I, also, believe the construction of the central sewer system would have a negative effect on local habitat and endangered species like the gopher turtles.

The installation of the new sewer system would require us homeowners to:

- Pay a huge connection fee
- Pay a large monthly fee
- Pay a large monthly fee that could be twice as high as some nearby areas
- Impact on current utilities such as electrical upgrades and a need for a generator for power interruptions (Palm Island experiences multiple power outages each year)
- Additional costs for yard and landscaping work due to sewer hookup

We should not be trying to fix something that is not broken. Due to the lack of demonstrated scientific evidence for the need for a centralized sewer system and the significant costs to be incurred, I strongly recommend that EU's application must be denied or rejected.

2. FINANCIAL ABILITY. EU has not provided sufficient and fully transparent information regarding its ability to finance this multi-million dollar and multi-year project. EU is a newly formed small company with no track record or financial statements to indicate that they would be capable of obtaining financing for and reliably managing a project of this magnitude and complexity. The requirement for performance bonds is a

common business practice for construction projects and in this specific case of an inexperienced and small company like EU, this should be mandatory and nonnegotiable! I believe there is substantial risk that EU would not have the technical expertise or financial resources to obtain a performance bond, much less reliably completing the project.

If for some unfathomable and unbelievable reason, the application is granted, the application should be non-transferable. This would prevent EU from flipping the rights to the project as it may not have any intention or capability of completing the project. This would prevent an unqualified company like EU to flip the application to another company for a large fee and a quick profit.

Due to the small size of the company and lack of demonstrated financial resources and questionable intent and ability to execute on the project, I strongly recommend that EU's application must be denied or rejected.

3. TECHNICAL EXPERTISE. It is apparent that EU does not have technical expertise or skill set to put in a central sewer system. The only experience the owners of EU claim is the distribution of water to Little Gasparilla Island. That company has a history of poor service and dissatisfied customers. A water supply company that accepts treated water from another mainland utility and then distributes it, reads the meters, and collects the payments, is vastly different from the complexity and magnitude of designing, installing, maintaining and running a municipal sewage system on a barrier island. I understand that EU plans to contract with an engineering/construction firm to design and build out the proposed system. I question if the two owners of EU would even be qualified to draft the technical specifications for a request for a proposal to build the system or evaluate the proposals once they arrive. The EU owners have no experience or qualifications in designing, building and management of a project of this size and complexity. Due to EU's lack of technical expertise, experience and resources, I strongly recommend that EU's application must be denied or rejected.

4. FAIR AND EQUITABLE RATES & CHARGES. From the start, EU has not been transparent or fully analyzed the the costs and resulting rates and charges for the proposed central sewer system. Initially, EU boldly and without merit requested to have the Authorization separated from any information on proposed installation costs or rates. The PSC thankfully denied the request. Following the denial, EU suggested a possible connection fee of \$20,000 per dwelling. It seems that this was simply a guess they hoped to get approved. Now, EU is "guessing" a much lower connection fee of \$13,000 per dwelling. EU has yet to present transparent and realistic cost estimates, calculations and related assumptions based on certified preliminary designs and specifications to justify rates and charges. Reliable cost estimates cannot be calculated without an adequate preliminary design and cost calculations from a licensed and qualified engineering firm with experience in designing and overseeing the construction of central sewer systems. Due to EU's lack of a preliminary design and cost calculations from or evaluated by a qualified engineering firm, the financial information provided by EU cannot be relied on. As a result, any rates and charge information based on EU provided information could be wildly inaccurate and should not be relied upon. Due to the lack of reliability and transparency of EU's cost estimates and are not based on valid engineering projections, I strongly recommend that EU's application must be denied or rejected.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Robert Der

Mobile telephone numbers:

USA: +1-630-373-7886

China: +86-136-6196-0494

Email: robert.der.der@gmail.com
or derro@yahoo.com

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 1:19 PM
To: 'Jamkelly5'
Subject: RE: Docket#20200226-SU

Dear Mr. Kelly,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC– Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to FloridaPSC.com, where it will be live streamed.

Thank you, again, for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

From: Jamkelly5 <jamkelly5@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 4:06 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; 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>
Subject: Docket#20200226-SU

Commissioners,

I am writing in regards to the proposed central sewer system application by Environmental Utilities (EU). We are seasonal residents and our home is fairly new. This will be our third winter on Palm Island. I'm sure you are aware of the cost of a new septic system for an individual home -not a small price. We followed all the rules and regulations requested by the state and county. Our system is properly maintained by a licensed septic contractor who is recognized by the state and county. Now you're saying that all of the time and money we've invested is for nothing? I failed to see how a central sewer line would benefit us and feel we are being blindsided by another huge unnecessary cost for a system we don't want or need.

Also the lack of information regarding the finances of EU is concerning. And the huge change in their estimated hook up cost is troubling. Does this company, which runs a water treatment plant, not a septic company, have the expertise to take on a project of this magnitude? There are so many unknowns with EU that are very concerning.

Also, there have been no environmental concerns regarding the existing septic systems on Palm Island, and this proposed line is not something the residents want or need.

Palm Island is a special place. The residents truly care about the beautiful environment in which they live, and the animals they share it with. The disruption the construction of a sewer line would cause could be devastating to some of those animals – particularly the gopher tortoise, a protected species. It will also be disruptive to the lives of the residents, who rely on small roads and a car ferry to access the mainland. Sharing that ferry and those roads with construction crews and equipment will be problematic.

We urge you to look at the facts, and listen to the voices of the residents on the island whose lives will be impacted, and deny EU a permit.

Thank You,
Jim & Lori Kelly
189 N. Gulf Blvd.
651-260-7449

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 1:19 PM
To: 'Dona Cabela'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Mr. and Ms. Cabela,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC– Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to FloridaPSC.com, where it will be live streamed.

Thank you, again, for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

From: Dona Cabela <cdjean20@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 3:47 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Hello:

Please review my attached letter in regards to my formal request to deny the application for original certificate of authorization for the proposed central sewer system to Knights Island, Bocilla island and Don Pedro islands.

Thank you
Respectfully

Chaz & Dona Cabela

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 1:18 PM
To: 'nelsondot@earthlink.net'
Subject: RE: Docket # 20200226-us

Dear Ms. Kirkland,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC– Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to FloridaPSC.com, where it will be live streamed.

Thank you, again, for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

-----Original Message-----

From: nelsondot@earthlink.net <nelsondot@earthlink.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 2:30 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Cc: 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>
Subject: Docket # 20200226-us

Dear Clerk and Commissioner's,

This is Mary Dorothy Kirkland and I am a homeowner within the proposed service area on Little Gasparilla Island. I am formally requesting that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service.

Below are some concerns and impacts to us as owners:

Average Residential Bill: \$178.78, which is roughly twice the amount that a ratepayer on the mainland in Rotonda pays per month for water and wastewater combined. Note that the average cost to EU per customer per month is \$97.18. Electric: the system pump requires a separate electric panel, installed by a licensed electrician at the expense of the owner. More electric: If the owner has maxed out their main electric grid with pool equipment or other large-draw items, the panel will need an expensive upgrade to accommodate the new panel.

Generator: the grinder pump has a limited capacity (60 gal) and in the event of a power outage will be unable to function for long. Homeowners will need a generator to keep the system running to avoid sewage back-up. Tree removal: Landscaping and hardscaping around the septic area will need to be cleared at the expense of the homeowner to gain access to crush & fill the septic tank. No pay-over-time plan: Ratepayers may need to take loans to cover the cost of connection Mandatory Hook-up: Charlotte County regulations require all homes to connect to central water and wastewater within 1 year of availability. No grandfathering of septic systems: regardless of age or condition.

I am concerned about financial hardship and ability as well as fair and equitable rates and charges.

Thank you for your attention to this serious issue.

Mary Dorothy Kirkland

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 1:18 PM
To: 'Nelson Kirkland'
Subject: RE: Little Gasparilla Sewer

Dear Mr. Kirkland,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC– Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to FloridaPSC.com, where it will be live streamed.

Thank you, again, for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

From: Nelson Kirkland <nelson@centralfloridamediagroup.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 2:17 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; 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>
Cc: Nelson & Dot Kirkland <nelsondot@earthlink.net>
Subject: Little Gasparilla Sewer

I own a house on Little Gasparilla Island and I would like to voice my objection to the proposal and ask the PSC to deny the EU Application for Original Certificate of Authorization.

1. I question the need for the service.
2. I question the applicants financial ability to install and sustain, I mean shouldn't this be a government project if it's so vital?
3. Has the applicant any technical expertise or could the commission be responsible for a major environmental catastrophe if the applicant messes up.

4. The rates that have been tossed around for homeowners are ridiculous.

--

Best regards,
R . Nelson Kirkland
9768 Little Gasparilla Island

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Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 1:17 PM
To: 'Candyce Cohen'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Ms. Cohen,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC– Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to FloridaPSC.com, where it will be live streamed.

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Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

From: Candyce Cohen <candycecohen@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 2:10 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; 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>
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Distinguished commissioners LaRosa, Clark, Passidomo and Clerk of the Commission,

Good morning. I have been a homeowner on Don Pedro Island in Charlotte County since 1990, and a full-time resident since 1995. I am formally requesting the Public Service Commission DENY Environmental Utilities LLC's (EU's) application for wastewater service for the following reasons:

1. NEED FOR SERVICE

Water quality testing in and around Lemon Bay and northern Charlotte Harbor has not established the need to replace septic systems with a central sewer system. To address this concern, EU emailed interested parties information from a Florida Atlantic University study on septic system impact on the "urbanized Indian River Lagoon" area on the east/Atlantic coast of Florida. EU has also referenced via email that the islands to the north (in Sarasota County) and to the south (in Lee County) are on central sewer.

- The population density from Indian River and surrounding coastal counties are significantly greater running from 20% to 85% greater population density than Charlotte County.
- I also note the Indian River Lagoon is listed as the waterway with the 4th highest volume of untreated sewage spills in the state from Florida DEP analysis spanning 2009 – 2018, and therefore should not be conflated with Lemon Bay and Charlotte Harbor.
- As Mr. Boyer has also communicated the islands north and south have central sewer, to be clear both those counties have 280% greater population density than Charlotte County.
- Don Pedro, Knight and Little Gasparilla Island differs significantly from our neighbors on the east coast. Besides population density referenced above, the islands do not support high-rise/multifamily nor commercial development (beyond a single resort on the north end). Extensive commercial development is not zoned for and not contributing to the need for central sewer. In fact, our zoning ensures this will not change.
- Anecdotally, we have seen on other islands up and down the coast, when sewer is installed developers "lobby" county and city commissions to alter zoning to increase development which would fundamentally change the nature of the islands and the Florida native environment we have today.

Given these concerns, I request EU's application be **DENIED**.

2. INCREASED RISK OF SEWAGE SPILLS DUE TO POWER INTERRUPTIONS (vs AGEING INFRASTRUCTURE)

While future local water quality studies may one day show some nutrient leakage from septic tanks, central sewer adds risk for environmental nightmares beyond an individual home's septic tank collapsing here and there. Checking Florida headlines and Florida DEP Public Notice of Pollution (PNP) tracking of sewage and wastewater spills[1] over the past few years[2]

In 2019, the Department of Environmental Protection reported **2,779 wastewater spills in Florida**, compared with **1,282 reported spills in 2007**. There was a large jump in 2017, the year of Hurricane Irma, of a reported **3,452 wastewater spills**. ... Pathogens in wastewater are known to cause lung and intestinal infections.



<https://projects.wuft.org> > humanhazard > major spills fro... ⋮

<https://www.floridatoday.com> › story › news › 2021/12/16

Thousands of gallons of raw sewage spilled in Titusville, Palm ...

Dec 16, 2021 – Thousands of gallons of raw **sewage leaked** in Titusville, Palm Bay ... according to the **Florida** Department of Environmental Protection.

<https://www.abcactionnews.com> › news › region-pinellas

At least 1,300 gallons of sewage leaks into St. Pete waters

Jul 20, 2021 – This is also not the only **wastewater leak** that has happened recently around the Tampa Bay area. The **Florida** Department of Environmental ...

Major spills from Florida's sewage treatment plants are on the ...

Aging infrastructure and storms contribute to massive spills

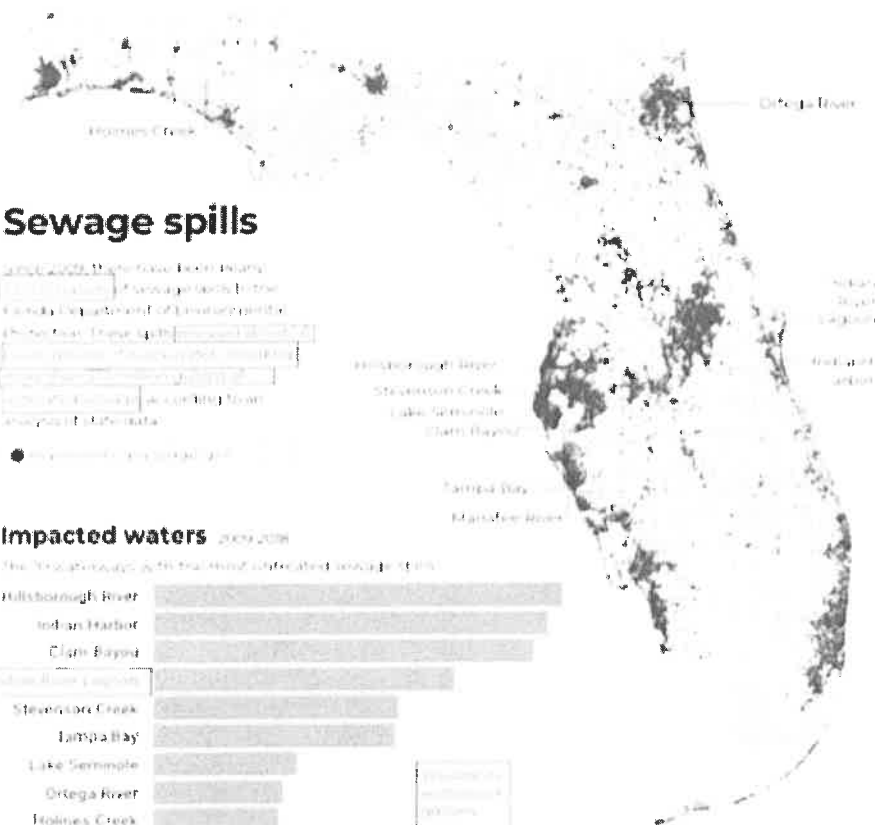
BY JOSH SALMAN, JENNIFER BORRESEN, DAPHNE CHEN
AND DAK LE / GATEHOUSE MEDIA

, Sarasota Herald-Tribune

More than 400,000 gallons of raw sewage flowed into Sarasota Bay after a violent December storm forced open a city pipe.

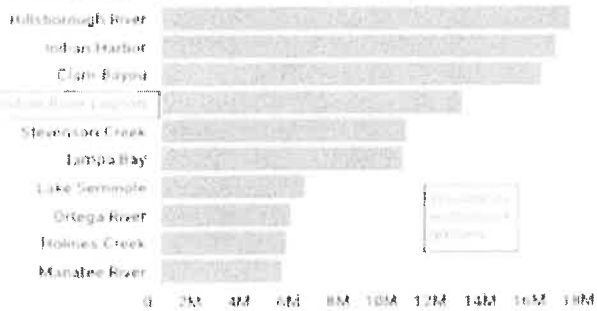
Summer rain in Daytona Beach and equipment failure in Jacksonville each prompted more than a quarter million gallons of human waste to spill from sewers last year.

In Boca Raton, a pressurized pipe gushed out nearly 50,000 gallons of untreated wastewater, while another 55,000 gallons spewed from a DeFuniak Springs manhole into nearby Bruce Creek.



Impacted waters 2000-2009

The Florida Agency for Water Resource Management's report



Source: Florida Department of Environmental Protection's report

Rates Comparison

Characteristics

Links

Select residential bill and monthly consumption amount

Water Bill Sewer Bill Water + Sewer Bill



4,000 gallons
535 cubic feet

Monthly Sewer Bill: \$54.89

Select comparison group:

Comparing to **all utilities in survey**



218 rate structures compared

Rates Comparison

Characteristics

Links

Select residential bill and monthly consumption amount

Water Bill Sewer Bill Water + Sewer Bill



4,000 gallons
535 cubic feet

Monthly Sewer Bill: \$55.18

Select comparison group: All Utilities

Comparing to all utilities in survey



218 rate structures compared

Cardace Cohen

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 1:17 PM
To: 'terymiklos@aol.com'
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC-- Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to FloridaPSC.com, where it will be live streamed.

Thank you, again, for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

From: terymiklos@aol.com <terymiklos@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 1:24 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

I am Terry Miklos property owner of 40 N. Gulf Blvd. on Palm Island in Placida, FL. This island is unique in that it is one of the few islands left with no bridge access. Residents may gain access to the island by boat or by car ferry. Once on island most vehicles are golf cart

I am formally requesting that PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service for the following reasons:

1. EU has absolutely no experience in this field.
2. As a result of this lack of experience EU has not been able to give us an accurate cost analysis break down of cost per owner or per unit.

3. As a result of this lack of experience EU has given a monthly estimate service fee of 178.78 per month which is almost twice as much as anyone on the mainland with no limit on any increases.

4. As a result of this lack of experience EU is going to tear up our streets and our island to an extent that would destroy the island and island life for an unspecified amount of time. Construction would disrupt ferry access by residents significantly resulting in hindering access to our homes day and night for an unspecified amount of time. In addition, construction will destroy our custom landscaping leaving homeowners to restore their landscaping to its prior condition at homeowners expense.

5. As a result of EU's lack of experience and potential funding EU is requiring all homeowners to hook up within a year at a significant estimated cost that cannot be financed making homeowners on fixed incomes unable to meet the requirement.

6. As a result of this lack of experience if the commission allows EU to lay large sewage pipes across the ICW it could result in an environmental disaster in the event they were to fail due to this lack of experience.

7. As a result of this lack of experience there is a huge concern as to who is overseeing this contract. Agencies such as County, DEP, or Army Corp are experienced, supervised, pull permits and are under a performance bond. What recourse do we the homeowners have for cost overruns or failure in the event they can't perform?

8. As a result of EU's lack of experience homeowners have not received any information in the event of a hurricane or power outage which could cause significant sewage backup into the system resulting in a sewage spill.

9. As the result of EU's lack of experience we have received no information outlining service and maintenance of the system.

10. As a result of EU's lack of experience they have not taken into consideration new, upgraded and well maintained septic systems installed at a significant expense. In addition, they have not provided information or cost analysis for the MANDATORY removal of these septic systems at the owners expense.

11. As a result of EU's lack of experience EU will claim ownership for an easement on my property without permission, compensation, or going through proper channels.

For all the reasons stated above EU is clearly not qualified to perform such a project and should not be considered for approval. I am formally requesting that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service.

Respectfully,

Terry Miklos

terymiklos@aol.com