

Charlie Smith

From: Charlie Smith on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 1:20 PM
To: 'bob@rowemitchell.com'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Docket #20240032-SU objection to application for certificate to provide wastewater service by Environmental Utilities LLC

Good afternoon Robert & Brenda Mitchell,

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20240032, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Best regards,

Charlie Smith II

Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850
850-413-6770

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From: bob@rowemitchell.com <bob@rowemitchell.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 4:45 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Cc: Office of Chairman 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>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU objection to application for certificate to provide wastewater service by Environmental Utilities LLC

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Dear Clerk and Commissioners.

See attached letter

Thank You

Robert Mitchell

Robert & Brenda Mitchell
3708 East Forest Lake Drive
Sarasota, FL 34233

8304 Lil Gasparilla Island
Email bm1962srq@gmail.com

March 13, 2024

Commission Clerk
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re; Docket # 20240032-SU

Dear Commissioner;

My wife and I have been property owners on Lil Gasparilla, Island since 2000.

We are writing to express our objections to the Environmental Utilities, L.L.C. application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, specifically the bridgeless barrier islands of Lil Gasparilla, Don Pedro and Knight Island.

Our objections to the application are as follows.

- We do not feel there is a need for a central sanitary sewer on the above barrier islands. To our knowledge there is no general substantiated environmental issue with the existing private septic systems on the 3 barrier islands for single family residences. Furthermore, if there were drastic environmental issues with the existing septic systems why is there no outcry from the state DEP or Charlotte County Health Department?

Re; Docket # 20240032-SU

- We do not know a neighbor or island resident who has requested central sewer service on the noted barrier islands.
- We are very concerned about the financial and organizational stability of Environmental Utilities in the undertaking of such a project. The for-profit utility has demonstrated a profit first attitude with many people on Lil Gasparilla Island over their water service connection demands. Water service that many island residents did not want. Does this sound familiar to objections voiced by islanders during the last application for certificate to provide wastewater service from this same utility and the current sentiment of the islanders? We certainly think so!
- This mom-and-pop run utility lacks the structural/organizational stability and size to respond to major problems that will occur in the operation of a vital system like wastewater disposal. The utility work conducted by Environmental Utilities I have witnessed on the island was like the wild west. FYI I was a Florida Certified General Contractor (1985-2021) that worked with many large site development subs and Utility Contractors and what I witnessed on the Island was never done on our jobsites!
- The rates the utility charges for water are absurdly high based on the small economy of scale of the customer base, the enormous cost for a wastewater project in our current inflationary economic environment will be staggering. Correspondingly the rates charged to a customer will be unaffordable to many.

In these challenging economic times of historic inflation, the last thing we single family homeowners need is another huge expense for a wastewater utility that WE DO NOT WANT ! We islanders just incurred huge expense (emotional/economical) putting our homes and island back together after hurricanes Ian 2022 and Idalia 2023, we cannot afford this wastewater utility and its sky-high costs.

We implore you to see through Environmental Utilities for profit motives and DENY their application for certificate to provide wastewater services.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Mitchell

Brenda S. Mitchell