

Yvette Gillespie

From: Betty Leland
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 2:22 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket #20240032
Attachments: Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU

Good Afternoon:

Please place this email in Docket #20240032.

Thanks.

Betty A. Leland, Executive Assistant to
Commissioner Art Graham
Florida Public Service Commission
bleland@psc.state.fl.us
(850) 413-6024

Yvette Gillespie

From: Meighan Kerr <meighank@coloradomaterialsinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 2:19 PM
To: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Cc: Mike Riley
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

Importance: High

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Dear Government Representatives,

I am writing in regard to the above-mentioned docket number regarding the installation of centralized sewer to Knight and Don Pedro Islands, also referred to as Palm Island.

I am a property owner on Knight Island – I own a home at 18 Bayshore Circle as well as two empty lots at 16 and 36 Bayshore Circle. I am adamantly opposed to this request by EU to provide wastewater services to our islands and ask that you deny the request.

I have owned this property since 2017 and the septic systems we currently have in place are more than adequate for the needs of our islands. In 2022, I replaced my septic drain field at a personal cost of \$17,440. If this request is granted, I will now be responsible for an additional initial investment of approximately \$13,500, not including the required expensive electrical panel upgrades, and my \$17,440 investment becomes worthless. These costs are in addition to the high costs most of us islanders are currently dealing with because of major damage caused by Hurricane Ian. I am using every bit of extra cash and available credit that I have access to to make these repairs and do not have the ability to come up with the additional unnecessary funds. I will also then be responsible for monthly estimated costs of \$250 for a service that isn't needed nor wanted by the islanders. This is a seasonal home for me and I am already on the verge of having to sell it and walk away due to the current costs without considering these additional unnecessary costs.

Power outages on the island are common, and when the power goes out it can take a significant amount of time to get it running again since the ferry often cannot run when the weather is severe enough to cause outages. The pump associated with this new wastewater system would not work for extended power outages while the current septic system works as long as necessary regardless of power.

Due to Hurricane Ian in 2022, we are already seeing drastically increased ferry wait times due to the construction crews needed to perform repairs. It is currently not uncommon to wait an hour or more to get on the ferry due to this increased traffic. As repairs are still being done, this is expected to continue for quite a while. Adding a whole additional group of construction vehicles would make this even worse and cause ferry wait issues for years to come while this unnecessary construction is completed.

From an environmental perspective, there has been no testing done to prove there is actual need for the new system. Equipment would be sensitive to the salt air and could require replacement as often as every 5 years, again at extensive cost to the islanders. And if there is a failure, a sewage spill into the Intracoastal would cause major and long-term environmental issues to the entire area. The current septic system is not broken and has no current environmental downside.

Again, I am asking you to reject the request of EU to provide wastewater services to the Don Pedro and Knight Islands community. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

Meighan Kerr, CPA
Controller
CFO
Colorado Materials, Inc

Yvette Gillespie

From: bgillan@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 1:58 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Commissioner Graham,

My name is Bill Gillan, and I am a property owner on Don Pedro Island. I am writing to object to the proposal by EU to install a central sewer system on Don Pedro Island, and to formally request that the Public Service Commission deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

I am objecting to EU's proposal for several reasons:

1. The project is poorly planned and the finances necessary for a project of this magnitude cause me grave concern. EU has not addressed how the system would be serviced in the event of failure, for instance during a storm or other event. There is no performance bond required and no single point of general oversight and recourse for the project in the event of cost overruns or project failure. This lack of planning could prove to be catastrophic for our island.
2. The cost to each homeowner is unreasonable and burdensome. The current estimated cost of hook-up for each homeowner is over \$13,000 and the average cost per month is over \$207.00 per month. This amount does not include the landscaping and hardscaping around the septic area that would need to be cleared at our expense, and an electric panel for the system pump will have to be installed by a licensed electrician which will also be at our expense. We would also be responsible for replacing equipment when needed which could be often since salt air takes a heavy toll on mechanical and electrical equipment here. These are expenses we were not planning on or made aware of when we purchased our house on Don Pedro Island. This creates an unnecessary financial hardship on me and other homeowners on the island, especially since EU's proposal does not include a pay-over-time option. We would be unfairly forced to take loans to cover the costs for a project that the residents do not want.
3. There is no proven need for a central sewer system to be installed on the island and no water quality testing has been done in our area to prove a need for sewer. This unnecessary project would result in the destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species that make our island a unique and beautiful place to live. Additionally, the risk is a high for a central sewer leak affecting the Intracoastal waterway.
4. Lastly, our barrier islands are located in the Rural Service Area. The Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan mandates on-site septic systems for the Rural Service Area. Now they are insisting that the Comp Plan prohibits the County from installing central sewer, but not a privately owned utility. A project of this magnitude should be completed by county resources and oversight if it is deemed necessary.

Currently the county is restricted from installing a central sewer system as a rural service area. A private company without adequate financing and wherewithal to complete a massive undertaking could cause all island residents undo harm and cause catastrophic damage to the environment.

There are numerous other reasons for EU's proposal to be denied, but the fact is that the risks of going forward with this project far outweigh the benefits. I hope you will consider the impacts on the homeowners of Don Pedro Island who will be greatly affected by this needless and poorly planned project, as well as the detrimental impacts to our unique island environment, and deny EU's application for wastewater service that the residents of Don Pedro do not want.

Thank you,

Bill Gillan
bgillan@comcast.net

Yvette Gillespie

From: Julie Imig <julie.imig@imig-llc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 12:59 PM
To: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Cc: Records Clerk; george@shopnnonclin.com
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

Commissioners:

My name is Julie Imig and I am a homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island (9866 Little Gasparilla Island).

I am writing to request that the PSC deny EUs application for wastewater service on Little Gasparilla Island, as well as other related barrier islands

My objections to this project are as follows:

- 1) There is no demonstrated need for a sewer system on our island that I am aware of.
- 2) This project was recently rejected by the State Commissioners, and I am unaware of any changes to circumstances considered at that time which would lead to a different conclusion.
- 3) Our property is on the south end of Little Gapsaprilla Island, and extends from the bay on the east side to the beach on the west with no road or access, even by golf cart. There are a number of properties on this end of the island which have no road access whatsoever. The disruption to our park-like property, which is home to native plant and animal species, required to install and maintain a sewer system is concerning. I don't wish to grant any easements for this project



- 4) Our power supply is frequently interrupted on the island due to weather. It is unrealistic to think this would not have an impact on the proposed sewer system.
- 5) As I understand it, we would still need to have a tank similar to our current septic tank which would need to be pumped (at whose expense?). I believe this system only eliminates need for a leach field
- 6) EU has no experience jinstalling or maintaining a sewer system of any kind, let alone a system which needs to be designed to minimize disturbance to a pristine barrier island, and to overcome any challenges operating a system exposed to the elements.
- 7) All equipment subjected to the salt, wind and sun found on a barrier island would be subject to rapid corrosions/failure, including the pipe underneath the intercoastal waterway
- 8) The cost of installation, hook-up is high and without a pay over time plan, (\$13.5k upfront costs)
- 9) The proposed monthly service fee of \$115 is more than double that of Charlotte County run services of \$40.41 base charge. Cost per 1000 gallons for proposed project is \$39.64 compared to Charlotte County's 5.63/1000 gallon charge.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I invite you to come to the island to get a better understanding of the unique needs of our bridgeless barrier island as you consider this re-application.

Sincerely,

Julie Imig
9866 Little Gasparilla Island
PO box 64
Placida, FL 33946

Yvette Gillespie

From: Piatkowski Shannon <Shannon.Piatkowski@hcahealthcare.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 12:59 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Cc: spiatkow02@gmail.com
Subject: Docket # 20240032-SU

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Hello,

I'm a homeowner on Don Pedro Island, at 19 Palm Dr., I recently received a notice of application by Environmental Utilities, LLC to bring wastewater services to our island. I kindly request that you please deny this application for wastewater services. I'll be totally transparent in telling you that probably unlike many other property owners on the island, I mostly disapprove of this application because I simply cannot afford the costs associated with sewer connection, and then deconstruction of our existing septic. My husband and I are working class citizens who work in healthcare. For 30 years my husband I dreamed of owning on Palm Island. We literally saved every penny we had and made it a life goal to afford to purchase there some day. After spending our entire savings we were finally able to purchase a home, then hurricane Ian hit, we are self-insured and spend every spare dime to maintain and reconstruct our tiny slice of paradise. I'm beyond frustrated that someone can simply put in an application to bring a service that I don't need or want, and I could be forced to pay thousands I don't have simply so that they can profit of myself and others.

If for some reason you choose to approve, for reasons I would likely not understand, I would instead ask that you allow those of us with existing septic tanks to be grandfathered and not forced or mandated to connect to the sewer.

Shannon Piatkowski
813-376-2383
19 Plam Dr.
Placida, FL