

**Yvette Gillespie**

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**From:** Yvette Gillespie on behalf of Records Clerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 3:58 PM  
**To:** 'Tammy Schuh'  
**Cc:** Consumer Contact  
**Subject:** RE: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

Good afternoon Tammy Schuh,

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.

Sincerely,

*Yvette Gillespie*

Commission Deputy Clerk I  
Florida Public Service Commission  
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**From:** Tammy Schuh <tschuh@me.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024 7:46 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 Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>  
**Subject:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Docket #20240032-SU

My name is Tammy Schuh, I am a property owner within the proposed service area Little Gasparilla Island. I am writing to formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service. Based on no evidence provided that supports a need for service in the proposed service area. There has been no water quality testing done in our area to prove a need for sewer. This project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species such as the gopher tortoise.

Providing utilities promotes high-density development! The Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan categorizes land into two groups: the Urban Service Area and the Rural Service Area. In order to direct development to places that are desirable for large populations, the Urban Service Area provides infrastructure and utilities to attract developers. In the same way, if the government wishes to direct development away from an area, it puts it into the Rural Service Area. Our barrier islands are in the Rural Service Area. The Comp Plan mandates on-site septic systems for the Rural Service Area. The Comp Plan prohibits the County from installing central sewer, but not a privately owned utility.

The costs of central sewer are quite considerable at a very bad time for Islanders. Many are still engaged with fighting their insurance companies for settlements from Hurricane Ian and have had to lay out large sums for their re-builds while they wait for compensation. Some owners have just paid deep-pocket sums to install new septic systems at their newly built or re-built homes. Many property owners simply do not have the resources available to convert from septic to sewer. Here is an outline of what we anticipate:

### **BASIC COSTS**

EU's application shows it would cost **\$12,000.00 for the initial hook-up plus \$1097** for the sewer lateral installation fee (the charge to run the pipe from the road to the location of the equipment near your home). There is also an **initial deposit required of \$414**, which is identified as 2x the estimated monthly bill. PIE believes that this figure does not include additional expenses that the homeowner may be obliged to pay (*see below*).

### **MONTHLY COSTS**

EU estimates average household usage at 2,500 gallons/month. **Based on this, the monthly billing would be \$207.00/month.** However, the PSC estimates average household usage at 4,000 gallons/month. Using this figure the monthly billing would be **\$263.57/month for wastewater service alone.**

### **RELATED COSTS**

These are some items that might be an additional expense for individual homeowners (listed here but not limited to):

- \$\$** Cost of pump-out and maintenance of new system tank
- \$\$** Cost of **ALL** permitting ie, removal, installation, rehoming wildlife etc.
- \$\$** Cost of electric installation for system
- \$\$** Cost of additional electric service if needed (potential of new or added panel)
- \$\$** Cost of replacing anything more than the "basic landscaping" that the hook-up agreement states will be replaced.
- \$\$** In the event of another bad storm or lengthy power out, you may need to have a generator to prevent sewage backup on your property.

I am formally requesting that the PSC **deny EU's application for wastewater service.**

Respectfully,

Tammy Schuh  
[tschuh@me.com](mailto:tschuh@me.com)

8492 Little Gasparilla Island, Placida FL