

Antonia Hover

From: Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 10:48 AM
To: 'Jean Schultz'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Objection: Docket #20240032-SU Application

Good Morning, Jean and Donald Schultz.

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.

Thank you!

Toni Hover

*Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
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Phone: (850) 413-6467*

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From: Jean Schultz <themumma2@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 10:28 AM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Chairman La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>
Cc: Don Schultz <schultzdon50@gmail.com>; mfriedman@deanmead.com
Subject: Fw: Objection: Docket #20240032-SU Application

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We are writing to respond to the recent legal notice from Environmental Utilities LLC (EU) regarding their application to the Public Service Commission for the installation of central sewer on the barrier islands of Little Gasparilla Island, Don Pedro Island and Knight Island.

We formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service.

We **strongly object** to this renewed initiative that was previously denied after a lengthy, detailed and expensive legal and public review in which many practical issues were exposed and successfully challenged by residents of the islands.

There was (and still is) an overwhelming lack of support for even considering allowing a private, for-profit, inexperienced entity to provide sewer services that the majority of home owners feel is both unnecessary and extremely costly compared to the current septic solutions.

There has been no evidence provided that supports a need for service in the proposed service area. Expert witnesses previously refuted the arguments that EU put forward at the last Administrative Hearing on this issue.

In fact, the considerable damage that these island sustained from the 2022 hurricane underscores the contention that having septic systems in place forestalled even more potential damage than if the previously proposed sewer system had replaced the effective septic systems. From an environmental, maintenance and emergency perspective there are many more concerns with a sewer system on islands accessed only by a ferry and boats than with the current septic systems.

The cost of implementing a sewer system is extremely high and a disservice to the many homeowners who are still recovering financially and structurally from the 2022 hurricane damage.

It was brought to our attention during the last go around that the projected average residential bills were both misleading and woefully understated. Also, the proposed “cost plus” model is a red flag and offers no protection to the consumers/homeowners.

This renewed initiative does not make sense on so many levels. It feels like a solution in search of a problem.

It would cause significant financial hardship and environmental concerns, not the least of which is sewage back-up during a prolonged weather related event when power sources are unavailable or generator capacity / fuel is exhausted.

Please deny this Docket #20240032-SU application.

Donald and Jean Schultz

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(Knight Island)

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