

Charlie Smith

From: Hannah Barker
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 1:40 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket Correspondence
Attachments: Docket #20240032-SU Objection to & Request for denial of EU application; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Fw: Septic to Sewer conversion Little Gasparilla Island; Docket #20240032-SU; Fw: Objection: Docket #20240032-SU Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon,

Please place the attached emails in Docket No. 20240032. Thank you!

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



Charlie Smith

From: Lisa S. Lawlor <llawlor@browarddefender.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 12:39 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; John Lawlor; Lisa Lawlor
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU Objection to & Request for denial of EU application
Attachments: Objection to EU application 2024.pdf

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April 24, 2024

Attn: Public Service Commission
Clerk of the Commission
clerk@psc.state.fl.us

Re: Docket #20240032-SU

To Whom It May Concern:

We are property owners on Knight Island, commonly called Palm Island. We are writing to ask that you **deny** EU's application to provide wastewater service to our island. This is the second time this application has been presented, no pertinent factors have changed since the first time it was denied, and it should be denied again. Furthermore, EU should be barred from making further repetitive and vexatious applications.

The island does not need a central sewer service, nor did we ask for one! The company repeating its previously made and denied application is a "for profit" company with zero experience in wastewater management, which forebodes an environmental disaster just waiting to happen. EU has zero concern for the environmental health of Florida's barrier islands or for the lives of the people who live there. Approving this application will force property owners to cover exorbitant connection fees, raise our utility bills, and infringe on our property rights. We will be required to give access to our properties for installation and maintenance; and we will be required to cede an easement over our properties for a service we don't want but will be required to use. Our properties, which are home to endangered / threatened species, such as Florida's gopher tortoises and bobcats, will be torn up for installation – without our approval or control.

EU is not qualified as a contractor to install this service, and there is no need for the service. Yet we, the residents and property owners of Palm Island, will bear the physical and financial fallout of any project failures, cost overruns, or fiscal instability of the applicant. The property we have owned for over 20 years has been owned by our family for close to 35 years; our septic tank has served us well over those years. We see no reason that has been presented for approving this application. In fact, we see no reason for the application having been made other than to enrich the unqualified applicant. We are outraged that we must respond to this application a second time! We urge the commission to deny the application and prohibit any further repetitive filings.

Sincerely,

John & Lisa Lawlor
190 N. Gulf Blvd.
954-646-5605
JLawlor@lwmllegal.com; lisaslawlor@gmail.com

cc: Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us
Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us
Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us
Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us
Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us

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John & Lisa Lawlor
190 N. Gulf Blvd.
954-646-5605
JLawlor@lwmllegal.com; lisaslalor@gmail.com

cc: Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us
Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us
Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us
Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us
Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us

Charlie Smith

From: Christopher Zenaty <czenaty@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 12:18 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Hello,

I am a property owner on Palm Island.

Please accept this email expressing my serious concerns about this sewer project being proposed by a for profit corporation. There are many reasons that should be considered.

All residents are environmentally conscious about our island and want to keep it in the pristine condition it is today.

This proposal would damage the island forever.

I am not supporting this project.

Chris Zenaty
45 Palm Drive
Placida, FL

Charlie Smith

From: Mike Riley <mikenriley@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 12:08 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: 'Mike Riley'
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

My name is Victoria Millette and I am a property owner and live at 220 Kettle Harbor Drive, Don Pedro Island which is within the proposed service area of the Environmental Utilities, Inc. (EU) application for wastewater service. I am a resident of Florida and have lived at this address for over 15 years.

I OBJECT TO THE PROPOSAL UNDER DOCKET #20240032-SU AND ASK THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO DENY THE APPLICATION FOR ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZTION FOR THIS PROPOSED CENTRAL SEWER SYSTEM.

My objections are many, but primarily focus on the need and cost of the proposed system to landowners. Water quality testing is vital to prove a NEED for conversion from septic's to a central sewer system and I am NOT AWARE of any substantial or adequate water testing performed by EU. Charlotte County has done extensive water quality testing and found no evidence to prove the islands are polluting the Intra-coastal waters or Lemon Bay. On the other hand, Charlotte County has found that their recycle water program for large commercial water users, like golf courses, does not meet current federal standards and is a primary if not the major contributor to the excessive nutrient levels (nitrogen, etc.) in Lemon Bay, yet they are in support of this application. If there is no need (water quality issues) then this application should be denied before it costs everyone too much money.

The cost of this proposed wastewater system is excessive with initial homeowner costs of nearly \$20,000 plus additional cost of electrical panel work for the pumps, continued sludge removal from the proposed small 60 gallon storage (septic style) tank on homeowner property, and taking of private property from each homeowner for an easement to place the storage tank. All of this plus a monthly wastewater utility cost of around \$250 per month. We (Island residents) just finished major rebuilding from hurricane Ian and this additional cost is unbelievable.

Now look at the FACT that only a couple of septic systems were damaged and had to be replaced from Hurricane Ian – no significant, or even minor wastewater spills or environmental damage. With this proposed system of individual homeowner pumps to move the wastewater, when there is a power outage we could see a horrible wastewater spill in OUR YARDS causing significant damage to property, wildlife, and native plants.

Please deny this application for original certificate of authorization for this central sewer system.

Victoria Millette

220 Kettle Harbor Dr
PO Box 3554
Placida, FL 33946-3554
303-475-0480

Charlie Smith

From: Karyn Flatau <kaflgi9148@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 11:45 AM
To: commissioner.fay@psc.state.fl.us; Comminssioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; commissioner.passidomo@psc.state.us
Subject: Fw: Septic to Sewer conversion Little Gasparilla Island

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----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Karyn Flatau <kaflgi9148@aol.com>
To: Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us <commissioner.larosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us <commissioner.clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.us <commissioner.passidomo@psc.state.us>
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 12:14:40 PM EDT
Subject: Septic to Sewer conversion Little Gasparilla Island

Dear Commissioners,

I spoke at the FPSC hearing and sent a letter in favor of septic to sewer conversion. I was shocked to hear that we were turned down. I do not think they understood that we were requesting septic to sewer. I live on LGI, and am a full time resident. This is our only home. No second home. We built our home and moved here from Hernando County. We had a smaller home on the island and decided to live out our retirement on LGI. So we sold our vacation home and built our new home. We moved in 2010. We had to put in an ATU, County permit #273187. When we moved in we had no idea what that meant until the County came to inspect our unit and I received a bill for inspection, The inspector explained everything to me, including his opinion, "that septic to sewer would most likely be in the near future for the barrier islands." He stated that 'it would be environmentally better for our ECO SYSTEM."

Currently, we pay the County for the permit and inspection, but they never come to inspect(we have video cameras) and we pay Martin Septic service, who do come out and inspect every 6 mo.

My concern is that currently, we only have ONE service provider, who will come out to the island to maintain and pump out our septic systems. I am asking the Board to please let us know how this will be handled if Martin Septic decides not to service our Island any longer OR if we lose the barge service needed to get service trucks over to the island. Right now the

barge service comes out of ELDREDS MARINA. THEY ARE CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT TO SELL THE MARINA. SO THIS COULD BE A BIG PROBLEM!

It is very disappointing to know, that presently there is a company who is willing and able to establish septic to sewer conversion, who has been turned down. I am deeply concerned that we will one day, unexpectedly, have a huge problem on our hands.

I requested that the County send their contingency plan for the Island regarding Sewer systems, maintaining and assuring barge service for their trucks. To date, we have received no reply.

We would feel much better knowing that our elected officials are preparing for the future of our barrier Islands and the surrounding waters.

Sincerely,
Karyn & Art Flatau
9148 Grand Ave.
Placida, Fl 33946

Home 941 697 0186
Cell 352 650 5751

Charlie Smith

From: Debra Malone <dskmalone@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 11:41 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Commissioners,

We are property owners and residents on Palm Island. The purpose of this correspondence is to formally request that you Deny the wastewater services application submitted to you by Environmental Utilities LLC.

Our reasons for objecting to EU's proposal are numerous and include the following:

There is no reason wastewater services are needed on Palm Island. The costs will be prohibitive for most residents. The impact on landscape and existing habitat will be excessive.

This action will pave the way for unwanted additional building on the island. Traffic congestion will be unacceptable. Our property will be infringed upon and our rights will be taken with no compensation to us. The costs for both initial hook-up as well as monthly costs will be prohibitive and outrageous.

EU has no expertise or skills necessary to initiate or manage such an endeavor.

The risk of environmental catastrophe is enormous including possible sewer spillage into the canals and Gulf. As property owners we have no confidence that this system or this company will be able to manage this project in the best of circumstances, not to mention the hazards that will come during unforeseen storms.

We are therefore strongly urging you to DENY the application submitted by Environmental Utilities LLC for wastewater services.

Respectfully,

John & Debra Malone
430 N. Gulf Boulevard
Placida, FL
dskmalone@gmail.com

Charlie Smith

From: Jean Schultz <themumma2@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 10:28 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay
Cc: Don Schultz; 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

80 Palm Dr
Placida, FL
33946

(Knight Island)

themumma2@aol.com
schultzdou50@gmail.com