

**Antonia Hover**

**From:** Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 8:23 AM  
**To:** 'Hankin Family'  
**Cc:** Consumer Contact  
**Subject:** RE: Docket #20240032-SU

Good Morning, David and Joellie Hankin.

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  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
Phone: (850) 413-6467*

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**From:** Hankin Family <dhankin@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 10:27 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:** RE: Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Clerk and Commissioners,

We are writing to you to let you know that we oppose the approval of the application by EU, LLC to install and manage the sewer project on the barrier island chain in southwest Florida which would encompass the islands of Palm Island, Don Pedro Island, and Little Gasparilla Island. For the record, we are owners on Little Gasparilla Island. Our opposition starts with the previously and often stated arguments of:

**-Need for Service.** There has been no evidence provided that supports a need for service in the proposed service area. Expert witnesses at the last Administrative Hearing refuted the arguments that EU put forward supporting the need for service.

**-Environmental.** No water quality testing has been 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 is the way local government promotes high-density development.** Our barrier islands are in a Rural Service Area. The Charlotte County Comp 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.

**-We would be forced to give up our private property rights for free.** You will be forced to give up easement rights across your property without compensation.

**-Traffic Congestion.** The combination of post-storm rebuilds, new home construction, and tourist traffic during season has made wait lines at the ferry both unpredictable and outrageous. Now, consider the heavy equipment and materials transport needed to construct an island-wide central sewer system. And how long it will take to build.

**-The Costs.** 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.

Additionally, there are other concerns:

Has this system, which is designed for single dwelling use and has one tank per lot, been successfully deployed on a much larger scale? What were the results?

The person behind EU, LLC, is also the person behind the Little Gasparilla Water Company. We have grave concerns of one individual having majority control/power over our utilities. The current water company is not very responsive to service requests and I fear the same will happen with the sewer company if owned and operated by same individual.

A bigger concern of ours is the current lack of routine testing of water quality in relation to septic tank waste and the absence of ongoing septic system inspections beyond the initial permitting and installation inspection.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,  
David and Joellie Hankin  
Little Gasparilla Island homeowners