

Charlie Smith

From: Charlie Smith on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 1:06 PM
To: 'Colin Sue-A-Quan'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

Good afternoon Colin Sue-A-Quan,

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.

Best regards,

Charlie Smith II

Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850
850-413-6770

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From: Colin Sue-A-Quan <colin.sue-a-quan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 11:01 AM
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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Hello,

I own a house at 9752 Little Gasparilla Island and would like to formally ask you to deny Environment Utilities (EU) application to install central sewer on the barrier islands especially Little Gasparilla Island (LGI).

No proven need for wastewater services

LGI is low density with a handful of full-time residents with the rest of the houses used occasionally on weekends as vacation homes. Additionally, there has been no feasibility or environmental study that can point to any environmental benefit of changing systems for such a sparsely populated area.

Mandatory hook-up and no grand-fathering of septic systems

Charlotte County requires all homes to connect to central wastewater service within 1 year of service, but our existing septic system is less than 3 years old. We made a conscious decision to take care of the environment and install a new septic system and drain field but if this application is approved, it would mean we would be forced to replace our system with a smaller tank with more potential failure points. How is this better for the environment?

Low Pressure System

If this is indeed the system EU is proposing this is essentially a glorified drain field and still leaves the solids on the island which will require occasional pumping and what about when electricity goes which happens pretty frequently.

Impact to the island

With the Hurricane Ian cleanup we saw how devastating the large machinery was to have on the island but that was a necessity for us to rebuild. The central sewer installation will have a devastating effect on our island and not something we want to go through again with the heavy machinery

Extreme Costs

The initial cost for hookup has been mentioned at \$12,000 but overruns in the project would be at the expense of the homeowners. Additionally, it's not just a one time financial burden, but then monthly we would have to spend \$200 just for sewer would result in an added \$2,400 annually for a service that we do not need and that can be easily handled with our new septic system. This burden will put us into debt and force some homeowners off the island. We are already dealing with debt from Hurricane Ian and the rising property taxes and insurance costs so to add \$2,400 per year is definitely not something we should be forced to take on.

Private entity

If there is a truly a demonstrated need, why is Charlotte County not taking the lead on this versus allowing a new utility with zero experience of installing or running a wastewater service. It can be done in a more responsible and fiscal manner.

Please deny the application for wastewater services as it is not needed for Little Gasparilla Island.

Sincerely,
Colin Sue-A-Quan