

**Brian Schultz**

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**From:** Brian Schultz on behalf of Records Clerk  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 7:18 AM  
**To:** 'rich planer'  
**Cc:** Consumer Contact  
**Subject:** RE: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

Good morning,

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,

*Brian Schultz*

Commission Deputy Clerk II  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
850.413.6770

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**From:** rich planer <rpthree@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 22, 2025 9:44 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith <Commissioner.Passidomo.Smith@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>  
**Subject:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioners

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed public sewer installation on Knight Palm Island. I am a resident of this island and have serious concerns about the project, its necessity, and its potential negative impacts on our community and environment.

My opposition is rooted in the following critical issues:

- **No Need for Service:**
  - There has been no comprehensive water testing or evidence presented that demonstrates a genuine need for a public sewer system.

- Crucially, there has been no community-wide polling to gauge resident interest or support for this project.
- **Excessive Cost:**
  - The projected homeowner cost of over \$40,000 upfront is exorbitant and financially burdensome.
  - The absence of payment plans, low-cost loans, and an opt-out option creates an unfair and unsustainable financial imposition on residents.
- **Private & For-Profit Operation:**
  - The involvement of a private, for-profit entity (EU) eliminates the benefits of county oversight, such as payment plans and competitive pricing.
  - This lack of oversight leaves residents vulnerable to potential cost overruns and service issues.
- **Outdated Technology:**
  - The proposed low-pressure system is considered outdated and requires excessive maintenance, as evidenced by Charlotte County's discontinuation of its use.
- **Damage to the Environment:**
  - The construction will cause significant disruption and long-term damage to our island's delicate natural wildlife habitats.
  - The islands natural beauty will be damaged for decades.
- **Traffic Congestion:**
  - The increased construction traffic, compounded by existing ferry delays and island accessibility challenges, will exacerbate traffic congestion and inconvenience residents.
- **Maintenance & Emergency Situations:**
  - The required individual grinder pumps are vulnerable to our harsh salt air environment.
  - Emergency repairs after ferry hours pose significant logistical challenges.
- **Undue Installation Burden to the Homeowner:**
  - Homeowners will be responsible for obtaining electric permits, providing electrical service, plumbing, and installing generators for power outages, adding significant cost and complexity.
- **Mandatory Easements:**
  - The mandatory easements, requiring approximately 15 feet of property from the house to the road, will restrict homeowners' property use and development.
- **Undesirable Development:**
  - The installation of a central sewer system opens the door to high-density development, such as high-rises, which would fundamentally alter the character of our island, as seen on other barrier islands.
- **No Oversight:**
  - There is no performance bond required, and no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure. This leaves the home owners with all of the risk.

I urge you to reconsider this project based on the significant concerns outlined above. The financial, environmental, and logistical challenges far outweigh any perceived benefits. I believe that preserving the unique character and natural beauty of Knight Island is paramount.

Sincerely,

Richard Planer