



## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Candyce Cohen <candycecohen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2025 1:51 AM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Cc:** Records Clerk  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU DENY  
**Attachments:** CCohen - Docket #20200226-SU.pdf

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

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Candyce Cohen and I am a full-time resident of Don Pedro Island since 1995. I have spoken out twice in the past few years against the Environmental Utilities Sewer proposal which impacts my cherished home and community on Don Pedro Island. While I last wrote to you in 2021, frankly the EU application hasn't changed much except I've been working two jobs to try to recover financially to recover from 3 major hurricane landfalls in the last 2 years. Now, I am once again writing you requesting you DENY the Environmental Utilities proposal to provide sewer "service" to my cherished island community.

The EU proposal falls short of the PSC's focus to ensure our services are delivered in a safe, reasonable and reliable manner.

- EU simply has NO EXPERIENCE delivering sewer solutions and, to hear the residents of Little Gasparilla Island, their delivery of water solutions has been sub-standard. EU has not offered any indication of how they would course correct to offer reliable service to this larger service area with a more complex service.
- A lot pressure system on a bridgeless, barrier island is asking for disaster. The Helene and subsequent Milton storm surges taught us all that Mother Nature can wreak havoc on systems. There is no way a system under pressure should be anywhere near environmentally sensitive areas. A single break during Milton would result in a contained spill where the EU proposed solution would expose, under pressure, the entire island's sewage to the Lemon Bay waters.
- Further the Low Pressure solution proposed by EU invite environmental disaster on an island without power for a couple days - Milton and Helene destroyed many generators as they were housed on the ground level. This is the WRONG SOLUTION for the environmentally sensitive areas we call home.
- Charlotte County's West county treatment center is not an advanced wastewater treatment facility - so moving the island's sewage to this facility to be treated would SUBSTANTIALLY WORSEN OUR WATER QUALITY by releasing red-tide fueling, nitrogen-rich gray water to the numerous golf courses

lining Lemon Bay. Charlotte County Utilities should prioritize upgrading the AWT standards removing red-tide fueling nutrient from wastewater before any action to dismantle low-density OSTDS.

- In the last 5 years in Charlotte County alone, nearly ~450 sewage spills totaling almost another 3m gallons of which 555k gallons made it into our waterways, but it must be the one off septic tanks causing water quality issues? Except there are no documented water quality issues around our island. Issues have been noted near golf courses that use CCU's gray water .. which just flows right back into Lemon Bay.
  - CCU took out \$110m state loans and grants to fund the East Port upgrades forecast in 2026.
  - If Island septic issues are such a priority, then CCU would've prioritized upgrading West Port to AWT as well before 2034.
- Central sewer provided not by a qualified, experienced utility but rather an inexperienced, private, for-profit entity is UNSAFE for our environment. The nature of a Limited Liability Corporation providing this service provides no recourse to the public or the county for any costly environmental mistakes. The nature of a private, for-profit LLC versus a governmental body providing these services means no government or private environmental Clean Water grants will be offered to such an entity or it's customers as the LLC could close doors after collecting funds with limited recourse.
- The costs proposed, both upfront of nearly \$45K by many estimates and the ongoing few hundred dollars a month, are excessive when compared to any other utility service area in the state ... and most in the country. Several retirees or those on fixed incomes will be forced to move as these upfront on monthly costs are beyond reasonable.

Please consider all the input you have heard, read and collected from those actually in the service area, and not just relatives of the applicant's family, who have substantially requested the PSC once again DENY this EU application.

Respectfully submitted,

Candyce Cohen  
Full-time Resident since 1995 in the proposed service area  
8 Pointe Way, Don Pedro Island, FL 33946  
candycecohen@gmail.com  
(201) 600-1083

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Attaching my previous letter as EU has made minimal changes to their proposed solution since Docket #20200226-SU

From: **Candyce Cohen** <candycecohen@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Jan 23, 2022 at 2:06 PM

Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

To: <clerk@psc.state.fl.us>, <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>, <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>, <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>

Distinguished commissioners LaRosa, Clark, Passidomo and Clerk of the Commission,

Good morning. I have been a homeowner on Don Pedro Island in Charlotte County since 1990, and a full-time resident since 1995. I am formally requesting the Public Service Commission DENY Environmental Utilities LLC's (EU's) application for wastewater service for the following reasons:

**1. NEED FOR SERVICE**

Water quality testing in and around Lemon Bay and northern Charlotte Harbor has not established the need to replace septic systems with a central sewer system. To address this concern, EU emailed interested parties information from a Florida Atlantic University study on septic system impact on the "urbanized Indian River Lagoon" area on the east/Atlantic coast of Florida. EU has also referenced via email that the islands to the north (in Sarasota County) and to the south (in Lee County) are on central sewer.

- The population density from Indian River and surrounding coastal counties are significantly greater running from 20% to 85% greater population density than Charlotte County.
- I also note the Indian River Lagoon is listed as the waterway with the 4<sup>th</sup> highest volume of untreated sewage spills in the state from Florida DEP analysis spanning 2009 – 2018, and therefore should not be conflated with Lemon Bay and Charlotte Harbor.
- As Mr. Boyer has also communicated the islands north and south have central sewer, to be clear both those counties have 280% greater population density than Charlotte County.
- Don Pedro, Knight and Little Gasparilla Island differs significantly from our neighbors on the east coast. Besides population density referenced above, the islands do not support high-rise/multifamily nor commercial development (beyond a single resort on the north end). Extensive commercial development is not zoned for and not contributing to the need for central sewer. In fact, our zoning ensures this will not change.
- Anecdotally, we have seen on other islands up and down the coast, when sewer is installed developers "lobby" county and city commissions to alter zoning to increase development which would fundamentally change the nature of the islands and the Florida native environment we have today.

Given these concerns, I request EU's application be **DENIED**.

**2. INCREASED RISK OF SEWAGE SPILLS DUE TO POWER INTERRUPTIONS (vs AGEING INFRASTRUCTURE)**

While future local water quality studies may one day show some nutrient leakage from septic tanks, central sewer adds risk for environmental nightmares beyond an individual home's septic tank collapsing here and there. Checking Florida headlines and Florida DEP Public Notice of Pollution (PNP) tracking of sewage and wastewater spills[1] over the past few years[2]

I note while EU would hopefully not struggle with Ageing Infrastructure, it would have to contend with **POWER OUTAGES**.

••••••••The system proposed by EU requires electrical pump stations distributed to each homesite. In addition to the **significant cost** of supporting these, an extended Florida Power outage could lead to a devastating raw, untreated sewage dump in our waters - hundreds of times greater than individual septic tanks. Even with EU requiring each homeowner install/upgrade electrical service and generators, during power outages, fuel is precious and difficult to obtain.

••••••••We have a hurricane season every year and have had numerous instances of multi-day outages on island. To add risk of environmental damage due to difficulty providing electricity to individual septic pumps island-wide is a risk that should weigh heavily in the consideration.

••••••••Power outages are common throughout the year even outside the 6-month long hurricane season. In the last month we have had two significant outages one which resulted in a 19-hour outage across most of the island.

Given these concerns, I request EU's application be **DENIED**.

**2. FINANCIAL ABILITY**

The principals of Environmental Utilities (EU) are well-known to island residents with no observable financial stability or standing to undertake a project of this nature typically undertaken by municipal and governmental bodies. EU has not referenced any efforts to seek available water quality grants such as the Florida water-quality SWAG grants or the federal DEP 319 grants designated for septic to sewer projects.

••••••••As a limited liability corporation, EU LLC will not pass basic due diligence to be deemed a qualified recipient of the environmental, governmental or even philanthropic grants available to support such projects. Grantors will be required to act as fiduciaries in granting taxpayer or donor funds. The principals of the LLC have little to no oversight and would logically be considered "high-risk" potential recipients of grants.

- The principles of a limited liability corporation can “walk away” at any time with no liability – with grant monies in their pockets and no recourse to taxpayers or foundations.

- Further, as an LLC entity can “walk away” from the project at any time, there are no requirements to report any monies paid to that date. As there is no governmental body is taking responsibility for this project, islanders are left susceptible to undue risk of financial loss from a “limited liability” entity.

- With the size and resources of EU being limited, their capabilities to negotiate, oversee, and run such a large logistical infrastructure project are incredibly limited. Contract management, purchasing, construction oversight and execution would be much better overseen by a governmental entity which has the critical mass to cover such logical functions across a county/state entity.

Given these concerns, I strongly request EU's application be **DENIED**.

### 3. TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

Environmental Utilities (EU) is an LLC whose principals are well known to many island residents through a couple decades of business practices -- none of which is in providing wastewater solutions. Our natural environment is too important to risk to an inexperienced, limited liability entity experiment with providing services in lieu of the currently working septic solutions.

- Citing a loose “relationship” with Knight Island Utilities which operates at Palm Island Resort does not ensure experience or knowledge nor does it instill confidence in island residents who have observed and smelled the failing treatment of sewage at the current Knight Island Utilities location.

- EU's principals currently operate Little Gasparilla Water Utility which, while not wastewater, the numerous anecdotal customer complaints on this entity show an indication of their ability to provide and support utility services.

Given these concerns, I request EU's application be **DENIED**.

### 4. FAIR & EQUITABLE RATES & CHARGES

Charges estimated for individual residential homeowners are nothing short of outrageous and unsubstantiated by facts.

- A connection charge (Service Availability Charge) originally estimated at \$20K/unit was reduced to \$13,221/unit upon further analysis which begs the question if all rates overestimated by 50%?! The average estimated monthly residential usage (of 4k/gallons) is \$256.66 – and this is in addition to the highest water rates paid to a private for-profit water utility on the island.

- The estimated wastewater costs are significantly more than four times the cost of wastewater for our mainland neighbors. EU has shared an estimated \$256.66 monthly charge for use of 4000 gallons which compares to \$54.89 in nearby Venice, FL and \$55.18 in nearby North Port, FL (both in Sarasota County)[3]. [FL Water and Wastewater Rates Dashboard \(upd Sept 2020\)](#)

Charlotte County collects our tax dollars, but has abdicated responsibility to provide service with even the minimal oversight and services for island residents who are in Charlotte County.

- The proposed solution requires expensive electrical upgrades as well as generators to help protect wastewater processing in the event of the all too frequent power outages we see throughout each year. In a hurricane season, access to fuel and fuel at stations with electrical power are rare commodities. EU is looking to force homeowners eliminate their safe working septic systems in favor of a wastewater solution provided by an inexperienced provider susceptible to failure with our all too frequent power outages.

- As EU will not be able to avail themselves of 319 or SWAG grants that would be available to a municipal or governmental entity, the entire burden of cost will fall on homeowners who already pay taxes into the county covering countywide utility infrastructure.

Given these concerns, I request EU's application be **DENIED**.

In summary, I am asking that the Environmental Utilities LLC application addressed by Docket #20200226-SU be **DENIED** on these points:

- No proven need for replacement of existing septic tanks.

- No studies in local waters (the studies cited were performed in Florida's waterway with the 4<sup>th</sup> highest impact from untreated sewage spills).
- Current low-density and no multi-family zoning in our area.
- Increased risk of untreated sewage spills due to reliance on electricity in an area with common power interruptions.
- EU's corporate structure as a "LIMITED LIABILITY" corporation will not pass basic due diligence for federal and state 319 or SWAG grants leaving the entire burden of cost on the homeowners.
- EU does not have demonstrated expertise in providing central sewer solutions.
- EU's rates and charges have been guesswork at best evidenced by
  - The 50% overestimated connection fee originally provided
  - The estimated **ongoing** monthly costs of more than 465% of our mainland neighbors)
  - The extensive costs to run lines from main roads, fill and remove existing septic, upgrade electrical service, provide, and maintain generators for common power outages, and grant uncompensated easements across privately held land adds further to each homeowner's costs.

Thank you for your service, taking the time to read my concerns and your serious contemplation and review of the EU LLC proposal which drives so many of us to reach out and communicate our concerns with you.

Best regards,  
 Candyce Cohen  
 Don Pedro Island Resident,  
 8 Pointe Way, Don Pedro Island  
 Charlotte County FL  
 Financial Technology Consultant  
 Cell: 201-600-1083  
 Email: [candyc Cohen@gmail.com](mailto:candyc Cohen@gmail.com)

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[1] <https://prodenv.dep.state.fl.us/DepPNP/reports/viewIncidentDetails?page=1>

[2] <https://stories.usatodaynetwork.com/sewers/>

[3] <https://dashboards.efc.sog.unc.edu/fl>



Gmail

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## Docket #20200226-SU

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**Candyce Cohen** <candycecohen@gmail.com>

Sun, Jan 23, 2022 at 2:09 PM

To: clerk@psc.state.fl.us, Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us, Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us,  
Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us

Bcc: pie@palmislandestates.org, david.paul.cohen@gmail.com

Distinguished commissioners LaRosa, Clark, Passidomo and Clerk of the Commission,

Good morning. I have been a homeowner on Don Pedro Island in Charlotte County since 1990, and a full-time resident since 1995. I am formally requesting the Public Service Commission DENY Environmental Utilities LLC's (EU's) application for wastewater service for the following reasons:

### 1. NEED FOR SERVICE

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In summary, I am asking that the Environmental Utilities LLC application addressed by Docket #20200226-SU be **DENIED**

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- No studies in local waters (the studies cited were performed in Florida's waterway with the 4<sup>th</sup> highest impact from untreated sewage spills).
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Thank you for your service, taking the time to read my concerns and your serious contemplation and review of the EU LLC proposal which drives so many of us to reach out and communicate our concerns with you.

Best regards,

Candyce Cohen

Don Pedro Island Resident,

8 Pointe Way, Don Pedro Island

Charlotte County FL

Financial Technology Consultant

Cell: 201-600-1083

Email: [candycecohen@gmail.com](mailto:candycecohen@gmail.com)

[1] <https://prodenv.dep.state.fl.us/DepPNP/reports/viewIncidentDetails?page=1>

[2] <https://stories.usatodaynetwork.com/sewers/>

[3] <https://dashboards.efc.sog.unc.edu/fl>

**8 attachments**

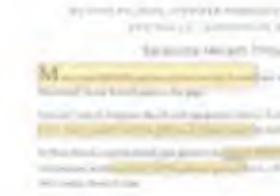


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**Aging infrastructure and storms contribute to massive spills**



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1397K

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Jennifer Jarvis <jarvis@mrinc.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2025 5:02 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** DENY EU APPLICATION - RE: Docket #20240032-SU

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

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to ask you to please deny the approval of this application presented by EU for a sewer system. There are a few reasons, I would like to share.

1. Need – Is there really a need? I have been on the island for over 50 years. In that time, I have never seen raw sewage leaking from any property on the island. I do not agree that we are having spillage issues as claimed. Water samples have not been tested from closer to the island than Lemon Bay. Show me that there is a need, and I may change my opinion. Most of the residents do not live full time on the island. Most are weekend residents, which cuts the usage down to about 80 days a year the houses are being used. That is less than 1/3 of the year.
2. Cost – The cost involved is a concern as we would not be allowed to finance over time like impact fees are spread over time. Also, the cost for this system is outrageous. I have a newer septic as it has been replaced, is pumped, and certified every 5 years by Charlotte County's requirements. This is a large amount of money that not all residents have.
3. Charlotte County – for MANY years, the county has overlooked Little Gasparilla Island, and I feel as though now that they are realizing the money they can benefit from us they are trying to get as much as possible. We pay extremely high taxes and do not get much in return.
4. Established business – EU is not even a working water treatment or sewer company. Why would you trust a brand-new company that has no track record to something as important as sewer? We have already experienced Mr. Boyer with the water company. We pay the highest for water in the entire state of Florida. Once again, we use the house about 1/3 of the year but are required to pay their minimum just to have the water line. Here we are looking at the same high rates for monthly service.
5. Electricity – What is going to happen when the electricity goes out? Currently, we all have septic systems. When the power goes out, we keep going. With the new system, how will it keep functioning? Are we responsible for a generator to be able to keep flushing? We know how long it takes for FPL to respond to a power outage. That would mean that much longer that we would be not able to reside at the island until electricity is restored.
6. Easements – The island was not set up for commercializing. We do not have roads as you do on the mainland. How can you just take people's property so you can run all these new sewer lines? Also, the equipment and vehicles to install the lines, we are not equipped to handle the oversized vehicles.
7. Breakage – What if there is a line that breaks? How many gallons of raw sewage will be spilled into the pathways or waterways? Is there a mandatory response time? Will someone be located on the island 24hrs a day to respond to emergencies?
8. Mandatory – How are you able to make this a mandatory hook up when almost the entire island is in opposition? Are you not willing to listen to the people? We are the ones paying the taxes not being heard. Our current system works perfectly, why would I want to connect when I do not have a problem. The residents have long embraced a degree of independence due to our location; we have been self-reliant on what we must work with. Why not make this an option to opt out, especially if we can demonstrate that our system meets the requirements.
9. Financial Gain – I do believe in free enterprise, but Mr. Boyer is only out for his personal gain and NOT the best interest of the residents. If he was, he would be willing to listen.

10. Island/Mainland – There are many residents on the mainland who have septic systems, and the county is not making it mandatory for them to hook up to a sewer system. Why pick on island residents when you do not even make the mainland hook up to a county sewer system.

I believe that if Charlotte County feels as though there is an issue, then maybe look at visiting the island periodically to inspect the conditions of the island and the current sewer systems. This way they could address the issues on a regular basis and know when something isn't right. There are other solutions, this just needs to be discussed. I understand the county's interest in wanting reliable sewer systems for all, but a one-size-fits-all approach may not be the best suited for Little Gasparilla Island. Perhaps a compromise could be considered.

In conclusion, would you trust a new company to handle something as important as this? Would you like to be imposed on a mandatory \$50K hook up fee, then a \$200 charge per month for pumping gray water, and the electricity to run the pump?

I believe you all have a heart and know right from wrong. This is just wrong to approve something that is not warranted.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rick & Jennifer Jarvis  
9766 Little Gasparilla Island  
jarvis@mrinc.net



**Jennifer Jarvis**  
**1929 5th ST NW Winter Haven, FL 33881**  
**O: 863.401.2577 | F: 863.294.3269 | [jarvis@mrinc.net](mailto:jarvis@mrinc.net)**

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Bruce Kelsey <bruceckelsey@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2025 4:39 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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

Please deny the proposed Environmental Utilities application As a retired Florida professional engineer with pipeline design experience and having owned a home and property on Little Gasparilla Island for over 55 years, I urge you to consider my following concerns.

- 1) The staff and the service application did not consider that most of the homes in the service area are occupied part-time and vacant most of the time.
- 2) The ECR gal/day estimated assumptions were based on other areas with mostly full-time residents and should have been based on the historical records of potable water supplied by water companies in the service area
- 3) Probably, the actual ECR gal/day would produce much less revenue than estimated, and the conceptual design would be inadequate to keep the lines flushed out.
- 4) No environmental tests were made in or near the service area.
- 5) Greater risk of a break in the main line and a massive spill on an island or under the inland waterway
- 6) There are safer and more efficient individual home systems that are even more efficient than the proposed system for removing nitrogen
- 7) Although the county has endorsed the application, there is hearsay the county is now opposed to low- pressure systems in new developments on the mainland.
- 8) The county does not own wastewater systems on barrier islands for good reason. It is too difficult and time consuming to transport equipment and personal to the worksite by boats and barges. EU would have the same problem providing service and dependability Conclusion Due to the average home on the islands having much less impact on the environment than septic tanks on the mainland, it would be safer, cheaper and more effective to wait for upgraded individual home systems that may qualify for government grants.

From: Bruce C Kelsey  
9798 Little Gasparilla Island  
PO Box 3462 Placida, FL 33946  
bruceckelsey@yahoo.com  
phone 863-288-0286

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Rebecca Hagelin <hagelin.rebecca@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2025 3:57 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** Please Deny EU Application Docket # Docket #20240032-SU

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

Dear Commissioners -

It breaks my heart to have to write this letter. Members of the Boyer family and employees of Environmental Utilities have been my friends for several years. However, their continued efforts to force island home owners to buy their unwanted and unneeded utilities, with the Boyers gaining much wealth while making their neighbors carry a huge financial burden and/or lose their homes, is just plain wrong. I wish no ill will on anyone, and am very saddened by the situation. The projected cost per home of the EU system of \$40,000 (for installation only) is an unreasonable cost for a family to bear - especially after the huge personal financial losses from the recent hurricanes.

Even if you set the consideration of the financial winner and losers aside, the facts show that EU's current application to force neighbors to buy and pay for the maintenance of an expensive and questionable sewage system should be denied by the PSC for two simple reasons:

- 1) EU has failed to prove a need for a sewage system.
  - In fact, EU failed to perform water quality testing of the waters surrounding the island. Given that the State of Florida's own testing of Lower Lemon Bay meets Florida clean water standards, it's no surprise that EU did not perform a test: A monitored EU test would have revealed the same result, only hurting their application.
- 2) The vast majority of property owners are against the EU proposed system.
  - This is evidenced in the number of letters sent to the commission both for and against the proposal; and also by the number of home owners who testified at the recent hearings (approximately 104 testified against the EU application, and only 9 for the EU application, three of the proponents being family members who have a conflict of interest because they would profit from the forced utility.)

Yes, some septic tanks failed in the recent hurricanes - and so did EU's entire water system.

I personally observed water gushing from broken EU water pipes after the hurricanes. I can't imagine the horror of those being central or connected sewage pipes, flooding the entire island's raw sewage onto our pristine lands and shores.

Please also keep in mind that houses failed in the floods, electricity failed, walls failed, roofs failed. Virtually everything failed in some way in the floods - except for most of the current island septic systems.

An EU island-wide sewage system with its labyrinth miles of pipes, and pumps and tanks would be highly vulnerable to future catastrophic flooding and storms, endangering the entire island and our delicate ecosystem. With individual septic systems, the damage from the storms is episodic, depending on the location of the individual

tanks. During Helene and Milton the vast majority of individual septic tanks remained buried and in working order - while EU's extensive water system was shut down for days.

I respectfully request that the PSC deny all sewage system applications (from any entity) for our island until such time that, 1) there is a demonstrated need, and 2) the majority of the community supports such a utility.

When those two conditions are met, the next step would be to determine the correct sewage system for our vulnerable ecosystem, installed and maintained by an experienced company in the field. EU's proposed system type is responsible for 51% of Florida sewage failures. Additionally, EU has no experience in the sewage industry - our delicate barrier island ecosystem must not be gambled during an EU learning curve.

Thank you for denying EU's application at this time, thus upholding your stated mission ensuring that Floridians will receive some "essential services" - and "in a safe, reasonable, and reliable manner."

Respectfully,  
Rebecca Hagelin  
(Residing at 8026 Grand Avenue  
Little Gasparilla Island)

Rebecca Hagelin  
703.915.7288

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Margie <777mmk@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2025 3:11 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Re: EU Application for Central Sewer Docket # 20240032-SU

### Summary – (Quotes from Context)

“There are many other low-nitrogen options to consider.”

“Why are we not looking at all options available, deciding the best option, then pursuing through bids the company best suited to provide the best option?”

“Any process that excludes many viable options in favor of one option, while not allowing discussion of all options, seems to be an absurd result of the process.”

"Only you can give us access to them, by denying this application."

### Context

Thank you, Commissioner, for taking your time to serve our communities and the great State of Florida.

I am a real estate investor with a marine biology background. I have contracted to the Army Corp of Engineers managing my team in monitoring various marine constructions for their impacts on marine endangered species. My family has owned on LGI since 1968 to this day.

At the service hearings, with only 3 minutes to speak, I myself gave witness to – not the lack of testing to prove the waters around my island need “cleaning,” but I brought evidence produced by the State of Florida that the waters **have been tested and designated “outstanding Florida Waters”** suggesting the State of Florida itself has already determined **there is no need**.

For all the testimony given for two full days, the following did not come up.

There are many other low-nitrogen options to consider, offering benefits such as:

- Much lower nitrogen output than the current wastewater treatment being proposed.

- Much less risk to sensitive marine environments than untreated slurry under pressure in pipes all over the islands and through our pristine Outstanding Florida Waters.
- Will continue servicing our homes during very frequent electrical outages on the island (It doesn't take a storm for the power to go out. Storms bring extended outages).
- Risks are isolated to a few individual homes rather than a conglomerated slurry of solids and liquids under pressure collected from an entire island chain.
- If there is an event at an individual house, the output is such low nitrogen that we can reclaim it, so if it escapes the system, little to no harm is done.
- Pumping slurry through the ICW and Florida Outstanding Waters imposes long term risks and the potential for catastrophic environmental events that could unfold for months or years before being discovered, whereas individual homes cannot impose a catastrophic threat.
- There is nothing "low-nitrogen" about the slurry of solids and liquids that will pump under pressure through Florida's treasured islands and through Florida's outstanding waters. But what leaves our localized tanks out into drain fields would be low enough nitrogen to reclaim it. Where is the environmental risk in such a case? The current wastewater treatment of Charlotte County has much higher nitrogen output, yet is sold to local golf courses as reclaimed and distributed causing runoff into our waterways and estuaries. A local drainfield at an individual home will likely never enter any water body, but if it did, it would be at extremely low density compared to golf courses AND be much lower nitrogen levels .

Many of us islanders have been looking into these types of systems, but for all of our good intentions for the environment, **we cannot move forward on purchasing and installing these lower nitrogen, lower cost, lower risk, lower maintenance, sensible systems because we are hijacked by this EU application.** If we invest in them, **we will be forced to destroy them** within a designated period of time with a forced connection to EU's system that we deem as *highly dangerous* to our properties and our pristine marine environment.

**So the objection is – why are we not looking at all options available, deciding the best option, then pursuing through bids the company best suited to provide the best option?**

Why, if there are many solid, viable reasonable solutions available, has the process completely excluded even discussions of these options? Do we risk the rewriting of the book, "The Everglades River of Grass?"

Any process that excludes many viable options in favor of one option, while not allowing discussion of all options seems to be an absurd result of the process.

Only you can swing open that doorway to allow us the opportunity to explore all solutions - existing out there right now.

Only you can give us access to them, **by denying this application**

Only you can give us the necessary time to compare the many solutions that promise much hope for our islands. The fate of these Florida barrier islands rests in your hands.

You hold a lot of power in your hands. Please search your heart, use good judgement, and apply logic. Give our islands the best future.

I cannot thank you enough for your consideration of this issue.

Marjorie Kelsey  
 9798 Little Gasparilla Island  
 Placida, FL 33946  
 (407) 718-1786 (cell/text)

[777mmk@gmail.com](mailto:777mmk@gmail.com)

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Debbie Daugherty <ufdaugherty@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2025 2:58 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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I am writing to urge you to DENY EU's application for wastewater service to Little Gasparilla Island. I attended the hearings held in Charlotte County and spoke in opposition to EU request to serve. I also listened to over 100 residents vocalizing the opposition to this request. Reading the staff recommendation and seeing there are only 29 requests to serve and many more in opposition to wastewater service on our island was shocking. Our island is a unique place and we bought our residence there for the lack of commercialization and hopes of preserving the natural coastal environment. This application by EU goes against the many reasons we purchased our home on Little Gasparilla Island.

In reading the staff recommendation, I was also surprised to see the PSC does not weigh in on property rights and easements to serve customers. The staff report says that is governed by others. Each and everyone home will have to provide land for EUs grinder pump station and provide easements for collection piping. It is apparent in their application that EU has not accounted appropriately for what effort that will take to accomplish. I know from my experience in providing water and wastewater service to my utility customers what is required. The question is what will Mr Boyer do? From what I've seen of how he operates the water system, he will install his pipes without proper easements. My own property has an easement for ingress/egress and a specific easement granted to FPL for electric utility service. There is no proper easement for the water pipe that runs along my property. While the PSC does not weigh in on property rights, it feels like you should weigh in on the entity and people you are approving to hold the wastewater certificate. Much of the opposition to the sewer system is derived from WHO will be the holder of the wastewater certificate. I personally do not believe the island needs a centralized wastewater system, but if it "has" to have one, I urge you to please pick a responsible party who will construct and operate the system properly. EU is not that party. Wastewater systems are very different from a water system and it is imperative that any system installed is properly install and operated or it can cause more environmental harm than good.

I hope the PSC commissioners will reflect back on the public hearings that were held and remember that it was clear to everyone that the majority of the island residents are opposed to the wastewater certificate being granted to EU.

I urge you again to PLEASE DENY EU's APPLICATION FOR WASTEWATER SERVICE.

Debbie Daugherty  
9850 Little Gasparilla Island  
Current Water/Wastewater Officer for Gainesville Regional Utilities  
26 years of design, construction, and operation of water and wastewater systems  
[ufdaugherty@yahoo.com](mailto:ufdaugherty@yahoo.com)

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Raymond Purdy <raymondpurdy@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2025 2:55 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; +Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us  
**Cc:** lgipreservationalliance@gmail.com  
**Subject:** DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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With all due respect to the PSC Commissioners,

Just because something is legal, doesn't mean it is the right thing to do. The legal aspect completely ignores the Golden Rule of Luke 6-31 and Matthew 7:12: "Do unto others and you would have them do unto you". I could come up with hypotheticals all day long, but let's just say you have a beautiful architectural shingle roof on your house that still has 30 years before it needs replaced. Along comes Jack Boyer, the environmental roofer, who has convinced local politicians that a petroleum-based roofing material is not good for the environment and every home, including yours, must switch to a metal roof. Hear comes Jack, with a legal notice in hand, knocking on your door, telling you that he is going to replace your roof and you are going to pay the bill. It gets worse, you are going to continue to pay Jack in perpetuity for service on your roof. You, as the legal owner of your home, have no rights and get zero benefit as your current roof is just the way you like it and it is costing you nothing. Too bad, PAY JACK for a new roof, or else!

What Jack Boyer is doing and what the PSC Commissioners are considering is un-American. The thought that any arm of our government would support the idea of a private individual being allowed to force himself on other citizens FOR PROFIT makes me want to puke.

This fight is far from over. I suggest you end it now and deny Jack Boyer's application for an unwanted and unnecessary sewer system on our islands. Keep Jack Boyer's money-grubbing hands out of my pockets!

Respectfully,

Maj Raymond Purdy, USAF, Ret.  
9888 LGI

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Korrie Stevenson <stevensonkorrie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2025 2:34 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Commissioners of the Public Service Commission:

I am a property owner at 9700 Little Gasparilla Island which is a property within the service area of the proposed wastewater service, Docket #20240032-SU

I formally object and request that PSC **deny** Environment Utilities (EU) application for wastewater service.

The homes, on average, do not have heavy usage. Half of them are empty at any given time and all very easily managed with a properly maintained septic. A sewer system is a terrible 'solution' to a misdiagnosed problem.

Additionally, there is no plausible reason to understand how this is even permitted to be brought to the table yet again after it was previously denied for the incredible amount of reasons from outrageous costs initially and ongoing to environmental hazards to the extreme maintenance and electricity it must have. It is simply and truly reprehensible.

This is about ONE family that wants to make a massive amount of income off of our land and our residents. It is that simple. The amount of financial and area devastation for so many with their homes on the island water 3 major hurricanes is reason alone to point out the obvious.

In good conscience, there is no possible way for this to be approved by the PSC and is yet again a waste of everyone's time and resources.

Thank you,

Korrie Stevenson  
9700 Little Gasparilla Island, Placida FL 33946  
[stevensonkorrie@gmail.com](mailto:stevensonkorrie@gmail.com)

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** stuart mendel <shmendel@usa.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2025 2:20 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear PSC Commissioners-

Please reject the Environmental Utilities application for sewer on Little Gasparilla Island. The proposed sewer is an environmental, financial, corporation and legal disaster in every way:

-environmental disaster because it is at high risk of failing / overflowing and dumping sewage into our precious waterways. One electrical failure (which happens frequently on LGI) shuts off sewer service for everyone = this makes no sense!

-financial disaster because the company is private and therefore owners cannot apply for financial assistance through available programs. the real cost to each homeowner will be in the \$50,000 range, which is -unaffordable to many, especially after we have been slammed with costs related to Hurricanes Ian, Helene and Milton -corporation disaster because the company has NO experience in providing sewer service -legal disaster because the EU demand for right of way onto each property will be the subject of many legal challenges. The law does not give them the right they need in order to build this sewer system.

Everyone wants to protect our waterways and upgrade our usage programs, but it needs to be done right, not rushed. EU, LLC is not qualified, and its being private hurts owners financially.

We need a qualified, experienced company to investigate and address the sewer need on LGI, one that can apply for grants to help defray our costs. This can be done, but NOT with Environmental Utilities LLC

I attended the Hearings and the sentiment was overwhelmingly against the EU plan based on sound engineering / environmental / legal etc reasoning, so I was shocked that the recommendation was in favor.

PLEASE help preserve one of the very last holdouts of the beautiful Old Florida way of life, which is a joy not only to owners, but to the many visitors who sing its praises. The EU plan is a gateway to further development on LGI, which will destroy the way of life here, the very thing that attracts tourists to our beautiful island.

PLEASE VOTE NO

Thank you  
Stuart Mendel  
8942 Gulf Street  
Placida, FL 33946  
shmendel@usa.net

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Iterating <iterating@pm.me>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2025 2:15 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear PSC Commissioners-

Please reject the Environmental Utilities application for sewer on Little Gasparilla Island. The proposed sewer is a disaster in every way:

1. environmental disaster because it is at high risk of failing / overflowing and dumping sewage into our precious waterways. One electrical failure (which happens frequently on LGI) shuts off sewer service for everyone = this makes no sense!
2. financial disaster because the company is private and therefore owners cannot apply for financial assistance through available programs. the real cost to each homeowner will be in the \$50,000 range, which is unaffordable to many, especially after we have been slammed with costs related to Hurricanes Ian, Helene and Milton
3. professional disaster because the company has NO experience in providing sewer service
4. legal disaster because the EU demand for right of way onto each property will be the subject of many legal challenges. The law does not give them the right they need in order to build this sewer system.

Everyone wants to protect our waterways and upgrade our usage programs, but it needs to be done right, not rushed.

We need a qualified, experienced company to investigate and address the sewer need on LGI, one that can apply for grants to help defray our costs. This can be done, but NOT with Environmental Utilities LLC

I attended the Hearings and the sentiment was overwhelmingly against the EU plan based on sound engineering / environmental / legal etc reasoning, so I was shocked that the recommendation was in favor.

PLEASE help preserve one of the very last holdouts of the beautiful Old Florida way of life, which is a joy not only to owners, but to the many visitors who sing its praises. The EU plan is a gateway to further development on LGI, which will destroy the way of life here, the very thing that attracts tourists to our beautiful island.

PLEASE VOTE NO

Thank you  
Jennie Freiman  
8942 Gulf Street  
Placida, FL 33946  
iterating@pm.me

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** jen vinci <jen@ipatools.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2025 1:53 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith;  
Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa;  
+Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us  
**Subject:** DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Please deny the EU application to dig up our island and put in a sewer system. We believe the results of installing a central sewage system will not outweigh the consequences, as well as affecting all of the owners on the island financially.

Thank you for considering what I feel.

Best Regards,

Jennifer Vinci

8634 Wharf Ave, Placida

845-901-1562

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** lindspauls@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2025 8:04 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** RE: Docket #20240032-SU

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Hello,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Environmental Utilities Sewer application currently under review. My husband Matt and I bought property on Don Pedro Island in 2021. We were excited to focus on a dream that highlights natural Florida beauty, tranquility, and independence.

After thoroughly reviewing the application, the hearings, and the information provided, I believe this request for service is both unnecessary and unjustified and will put our dream at risk. It is also clear that we are not alone in this feeling; there is a lack of support for the proposal, with many local residents from the barrier islands, mainland Charlotte County, and others all voicing opposition.

Among my concerns the key are:

- **Inexperienced Private Company:** I do not believe a private utility company, especially one with no experience in wastewater services, should be entrusted with managing such a critical function. I am worried about the potential for unpredictable and uncontrollable increases in monthly service fees they may implement.
- **Underbid Cost Estimates:** The cost estimates provided for the sewage hookup appear to be significantly understated, which raises doubts about their planning, budgeting, and project management capabilities. My concern as an owner is the inevitable overages will impact my own household budget in an unmanageable way.
- **Uncertain Environmental Impacts:** The application lacks sufficient evidence of any adverse effects on the surrounding waterways or natural habitats. After witnessing the minimal damage to septic systems on Little Gasparilla, Don Pedro, and Knight Island following Hurricanes Ian, Helene, and Milton, I can attest that septic systems continued to operate as intended the very next day. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for Boca Grande's sewage facility and other surrounding systems, which failed due to power outages. I do not see sufficient reassurance that this will be beneficial to our local ecosystem.

These concerns, among others, are why I am firmly opposed to this application and similar future proposals. I respectfully urge you to oppose the project as well.

I greatly appreciate the vital role that our County Commissioners and public servants play in shaping our community's future. I sincerely hope that you will honor the public's wishes and reject the Environmental Utilities sewer application.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Lindsey O'Brien

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Jessica Mack <jsmack6091@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2025 7:11 PM  
**To:** Office of Chairman La Rosa  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioners,

My name is Jessica Mack. I am an owner on LGI at 9400 Little Gasparilla Island Unit G9 which is part of the Hideaway Bay Beach Club condos. (HBBC) and at 9480 Alborado Road. I am writing this letter to ask you to **deny** the application by Environmental Utilities for a certificate to install sewers on our island.

EU made the change to the location of the waste water transmission line from Don Pedro State Park to Little Gasparilla Island.

If passed, this would affect both of my properties. I'm asking you personally to come visit the island and see what a special place this is. It is unlike any other place you can imagine. I've grown up here, and my children have turned into adults now. This is the only place that we prefer to come to in order to get away from the hustle and bustle of our busy world. Here we have quiet, stars, a place to walk on the beach and not trip over others. We respect other islanders and treat each other like family. It is the only safe place that my husband and I feel comfortable bringing our family to. Other places in the world are so crime ridden.

Please do the right thing and deny this application.

Jessica Mack

9480 Alborado Road and HBBC G9  
Little Gasparilla Island

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Kathy Stokes <kitkatstokes@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2025 6:09 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Records Clerk  
**Subject:** #20240032-SU Docket Denial

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Sent from my iPhone

Dear Commissioners,

It was shocking to read that your PSC Staff is recommending that you issue a wastewater certificate to Environmental Utilities, a private, for profit, inexperienced LLC! I have read every item that has been listed on your site, and I'm an "Interested" person. I've written letters to you during these TWO applications asking that you deny, I attended both days of hearings and spoke of my own situation and experience with EU.

Mr. Boyer has quite a reputation on our bridgeless barrier island. He stole water from the Don Pedro State Park in the middle of the island for his own water company and was arrested. In addition he illegally installed water to homes on LGI without permits, and he's not a plumber, (told me and 6 others he had installed hundreds,) used the wrong pipes and equipment which had to be replaced for which he was fined publicly at a Charlotte County Commission meeting. He has run his water company's pipes wherever he pleased and the condition of his meters even before the hurricanes was disturbing. Knowing the previous, it is very surprising and disappointing that the Charlotte County Commission approved a resolution that Mr. Boyer's attorney wrote and submitted to the County Atty. supporting his obtaining this certificate. This evidence was presented at the hearing. Then it was passed as a consent agenda with no discussion! And remember the Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan does not allow sewer in "Rural Service" areas of which we are. Does this seem ethical? Not one County Commissioner appeared at your hearings.

Speaking of ethics, in my research, I saw a name in the PSC info for ethics so I called. When I questioned if ethics of the applicants for certificates was looked at, I was told, Oh no, that is for the ethics of the PSC employees. Too bad not for applicants too.

At the hearings all three of the PSC Commissioners were so attentive and receptive to all of us who spoke, to our attorneys, and expert witnesses. There were hundreds of residents in attendance, (standing room only) and of those who spoke all were against the issuing of a certificate except for very few, which included his daughter, son in law, and wife. In the letter writing his 2 daughters who are realtors, 2 son in laws who are in construction, his employees, and his developer friend were involved.

Commissioners, I surely am hoping you are reading all the letters as it is going to be devastating to so many if you approve this certificate. There is no proven need environmentally, we are such a fragile place with lots of fragile animal habitats, the cost is astronomical, and the planned equipment is outdated and no longer used by Charlotte County.

Our expert witnesses and so many homeowners who spoke have expertise in the area of sewer and what will happen if allowed on our very fragile barrier island. Please take all of that into consideration. Also of concern to me is why should the homeowners have to finance Everything? We will be paying for property, trucks, boat, buildings and equipment! It is a start up company bringing nothing to the deal!

I will be personally affected as I am widowed and retired, a former teacher and school administrator, and I do not have \$40,000 to install this equipment, to maintain it with its needed generator, and the expected \$200 monthly fees. I will probably have to put my beloved home up for sale which my husband and I built 26 years ago. There are many who are in the same situation.

I am asking once again that you deny this certificate. Please put yourself into our shoes, 99% of our residents are asking this.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Stokes  
8892 Gulf St.  
Placida, Fl 33946  
813-245-9151

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Matthew O'Brien <mrobrien@bu.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2025 12:55 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Good Afternoon,

I am writing to express my COMPLETE OPPOSITION to the Environmental Utilities Sewer application currently under consideration. My wife, Lindsey, and I were fortunate enough to purchase a lot on Don Pedro Island at 301 Bocilla Dr in 2021 with the vision of living a life of freedom, independence, and enjoying the natural beauty of Florida. We were excited to embrace a lifestyle that includes great neighbors, a peaceful atmosphere, and independence. Prior to this, we purchased our first home together in 2016 at the age of 25 in Bradenton, FL. The house still has its original septic tank from the 1970s, which we have carefully maintained and serviced over the past nine years without incident. It remains in perfect working order.

In contrast, Manatee County has faced numerous issues with the release of sewage into the Manatee River from its wastewater plant, and we have witnessed the negative impact on the surrounding environment. Yet, our septic system has continued to function effectively, something both Manatee and Charlotte Counties cannot say about their wastewater management systems.

After carefully reviewing the details of the application, the hearings, and the information provided by EU, it is clear to me that this is an unnecessary and unjustified request for service. Additionally, it is evident that there is little to no public support for this application, with many local neighbors on the barrier islands, mainland Charlotte County residents, and others who are informed about the issue all opposing it. My specific concerns are as follows:

- **Private Utility Company:** I do not believe a private utility company, especially EU with no experience in this field, should be responsible for managing wastewater services. It would be like going to a grocery store and asking a checkout clerk for dental surgery—it simply doesn't make sense. I am also concerned about the potential for unpredictable and uncontrollable cost increases in monthly service fees.
- **Low-Pressure System:** I strongly oppose the use of a low-pressure system, which Charlotte County has already deemed problematic and has ceased installing in the county.
- **Understated Cost Estimates:** The cost estimates provided by EU for the sewage hookup seem grossly understated, raising concerns about their planning, budgeting, and project management capabilities. Based on costs in other areas of Florida, I believe the proposed price is simply not feasible.
- **Environmental Impact:** The application does not provide sufficient evidence of any negative impact on the surrounding waterways or natural habitats, despite the existence of working and functional septic tanks. In fact, after Hurricanes Ian, Helene, and Milton, I saw firsthand the minimal damage to septic systems on Little Gasparilla, Don Pedro, and Knight Island. Not a single septic system was completely destroyed, and they continued to function as designed the very next day. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for Boca Grande's sewage facility or other surrounding facilities, which experienced failures due to power loss.

These are just a few of the reasons I am strongly opposed to this application and any future proposals like it. The public, as evidenced by the lack of support for this application, shares these concerns. I respectfully ask that you oppose this project as well.

I have great respect for the role that our County Commissioners and public servants play in shaping the future of our community, and I sincerely hope that you will respect the public's wishes and reject the Environmental Utilities sewer application.

Best regards,  
Matthew O'Brien

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** George Pettengill <gpettengill71@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2025 10:18 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith  
**Subject:** DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioners,

My name is George Pettengill. I am a full-time resident of LGI at 9400 Little Gasparilla Island Unit J7 which is part of the Hideaway Bay Beach Club condos. (HBBC). I am writing this letter to ask you to **deny** the application by Environmental Utilities for a certificate to install public sewer on our island.

EU made the change to the location of the waste water transmission line from Don Pedro State Park to the HBBC property. Even though we were excluded from the scope of this application on May 13, 2024 (Doc # 03001-2024) by EU's attorney, this change directly affects every one of the owners at HBBC. We were not notified of this substantial change to the application. This is a direct violation of one of the tenets by which the PSC should base their decision - proper notification of all involved parties. This change to the application without notification denies the owners at HBBC of our due process to be able to fight this change.

The letter from the HBBC lawyer, Nick Porter dated February 28, 2025 (Doc #01210-2025) also states HBBC's position in this matter. I was extremely disappointed the PSC staff did not take into account this oversight in notification in their recommendation.

Although HBBC shows as being excluded (from hookup) in EU's proposal, it fails to mention that HBBC is in fact impacted. Their proposal shows the effluent transmission line running to the bay under what is the east/west road on the southern border of HBBC property. This road is driven over daily by residents in order to enter or exit their condos, and it is also the access road to our barge landing. The barge landing allows a pump out truck to be brought in to remove solid waste from the HBBC waste water treatment plant. I mention this because elsewhere in their documentation, it indicates the easement for the transmission line is 15 feet, and the easement cannot be driven over. Since the road is not 15 feet wide in most places, it would effectively shut down the road to vehicular traffic. That would impact the HBBC buildings that back up to the road, prevent pump out trucks from servicing our wastewater plant through our barge landing, and effectively make our barge landing unusable for bringing in machinery or large items for the complex. In short, this impacts all 102 units at HBBC.

Please do the right thing and deny this application.

Respectfully,  
George Pettengill  
HBBC Unit J7

Sent from my iPad

## Antonia Hover

---

**From:** Peter Leerdam <pleerdam@yourhomedy.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2025 9:47 AM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith  
**Subject:** 20240032-SU Environmental Utilities LLC

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Dear Commissioners,

My wife and I own a condo at 9400 Little Gasparilla Island Unit C3 which is part of the Hideaway Bay Beach Club condos (HBBC). I ask that you please reject the above referenced application by EU to install sewer lines across the HBBC Property based on the following deficiencies:

Notice - It was my understanding that the HBBC community was to be excluded from this plan as was confirmed by the EU attorney during the initial stages of the application process. I have recently learned that the proposed plan has been substantially modified and clearly contradicts the expectations set forth by EU when the initial plan was proposed. When the plans were substantially modified the PSC staff and/or EU should have been more transparent and notified the HBBC owners so a fully informed decision could be made.

Conflict with the Comp Plan - Per the staff report, this plan is in conflict with the county comp plan. It is concerning that staff is relying on a county resolution that was adopted as a consent agenda item, lacking factual support, and without any discussion as a means to dismiss this conflict. It's a classic strategic move by special interests and this should be given strong consideration by you and your fellow commissioners.

Those impacted by this proposal the most, including HBBC, have voiced their objection to this application. There is minimal support, if any, from the property owners on the island and I respectfully ask that the application is rejected.

Regards,  
Peter Leerdam

--



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1850 Lee Rd, Suite 300

Winter Park, FL 32789

M: 407-619-4884

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Shine Duct Systems <shineducts@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 26, 2025 9:08 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Cc:** Shine Duct Systems  
**Subject:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioners:

We just bought the property located at 9282 Little Gasparilla a month ago. We are writing to ask you to deny the application by Environmental Utilities (EU) to bring a private sewer to the island . I have been reading and watching the hearings and docket documents as well as talking to my new neighbors and investigating. I haven't seen any evidence presented about why the system is needed and all the neighbors i have met so far oppose to the sewer as well. Another important aspect is the excessive cost and financial burden this project will bring to each owner. I own an air conditioning company and I've seen the materials, labor and insurance costs incredibly raised in the past years . We do pipe fitting very similar to the proposed system and I saw the list of materials that were calculated with the difficulties of working on a bridgeless island , the backup generator and the pump needed some were estimating a cost per owner of \$40,000 , in my honest opinion I think it would be more than that. The technology proposed for the system lacks efficiency in emergency situations and if the pumps fail the system will back up and overflow. I watched a Commissioners meeting on January 7th where I saw that LGI wasn't in the Charlotte county sewer plan for at least the next 10 years, and it was explained in that meeting that the reason it wasn't included was because the environmental impact the septic tanks in low populated areas like LGI was almost nonexistent. I could keep writing pages and pages of reasons why I oppose to the centralized sewer system but the only question I had has been answered. The county already established that a sewer system is no needed for LGI in the next 10 or 15 years therefore LGI wasn't included in the Charlotte County Master Sewer Plan. So why would a for profit private company be granted a project to do something that the county deemed wasn't needed ? The answer is very simple. The application by EU needs to be denied. I hope you side with me and the hundreds of neighbors that have asked the same and do what's right for us and the community .

Thanks in advance,

Respectfully

Marlon Lopez

786-261-5026

Shine Duct Systems

## Antonia Hover

---

**From:** McCoy, Thomas <thomas.mccoy@vanderbilt.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 26, 2025 6:25 PM  
**To:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** Re: Docket #20240032

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Dear Commissioners:

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I am writing this letter on behalf of myself, Thomas R. McCoy, and my spouse, Judith A. McCoy. We own and reside in our home at 9720 Little Gasparilla Island. We have owned our house on LGI since 1994 and have been full time residents there since 2007. We are writing to formally object to the request by Environmental Utilities for authorization to construct a wastewater collection system on LGI. For environmental reasons, we would strongly endorse any proposal by a suitable government or not-for-profit entity to construct a traditional full sewer system on LGI. But we strongly object to EU's current proposal.

Applicant EU is not competent to conduct the construction and maintenance of a sewer system on the island. EU has no experience at all with any aspect of constructing and maintaining a sewer system. EU's poor performance in the construction and maintenance of the existing potable water supply system on LGI suggests that it should not be entrusted with the construction and maintenance of a much more environmentally sensitive sewer system. EU's water system on the island is plagued by inadequate pipe capacity, poor pipeline location and construction, frequent pipeline breaks, and frequent water outages followed by "boil water" notices to all affected residences.

The current proposal will subject the homes on LGI to substantial and unnecessary costs. Unlike most sewer systems that are operated by a governmental unit or utility district, the proposed system is designed to generate a substantial profit for its private owner-operator, thus significantly increasing the homeowner's cost beyond the cost of a nonprofit public utility. And because EU is a private for-profit business, construction and operation of the system would not qualify for the wide range of state and federal grants which significantly reduce the costs to homeowners served by traditional not-for-profit sewer systems.

In short: EU is not the provider LGI owners should be forced to accept in order to meet LGI's environmental needs, and the cost structure proposed is not the cost structure to which LGI owners should be subjected in order to meet the environmental needs. We urge the PSC to reject EU's current application.

Thomas r. McCoy  
Judith A. McCoy

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Nancy Teresa Eannetta <n-te1@cornell.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 26, 2025 4:44 PM  
**To:** Office of Chairman La Rosa  
**Subject:** DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Like the majority of homeowners on LGI, we don't think the EU proposed sewer project is a good fit due to the fragile environment and lack of infrastructure,

We don't want this sewer system to be a duplication of the water system, where Jack Boyer placed water meters and lines wherever was cheaper and more convenient for him, two on our property which belong to neighbors.

Most of us have a limited amount of property, so the 15 foot easement needed for this project is unacceptable, especially since it will be taken via eminent domain.

We could go on but will end here and ask you to reject this proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Nancy and John Basile  
8500 LGI  
nte1@cornell.edu

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Terrie Weibley <tweibley1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 26, 2025 4:09 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; +Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us  
**Subject:** DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioner,

Little Gasparilla Island is in upheaval after homeowners read the findings of the PSC Staff re: Docket 20240032-SU. We feel as though we spoke at an entirely different hearing, sat through a different set of compelling statements and weighed the testimony of totally different experts!

Of particular interest is our island's suitability for sewer or more importantly, lack thereof. Those opposed to Environmental Utilities (the overwhelming majority), have real world experience with fragile ground and underground equipment and particularly electrically-dependent equipment and the flooding and storm surges that regularly breach our island. Power outages alone are common here, rendering the system useless for extended periods. This sewer system is doomed from the start.

Our island environment as well as our homes and families will pay a devastating price if you as Commissioners approve this known-to-fail proposal for an individual grinder-based sewage system. We are astonished that any person with common sense could approve such a scheme. Several Islanders specifically testified that their septic tanks were the ONLY thing left intact and working after the overwhelming recent hurricanes. Numerous others could have declared the same, but you didn't want repetition. Are we to be penalized for following that guideline? The force of an ocean determined to have its way can not be answered by fragile equipment, much less electronics. It will all be ruined, washed out to sea and the island will be inundated with sewage! Then there really will be dangerous health hazards. It is almost as if this scheme was designed to chase us away. Hmmm...

The staff concluded that the Charlotte County Commission is behind this project. Yet it was exposed at the hearing that EU's attorney (who previously denied recalling this), had drafted the letter the Commissioners signed. It is especially telling that not a single invited County Commissioner felt that the Environmental Utilities proposal hearing for our island was a meeting with state commissioners at which they wanted to be seen. Instead, their Utilities Director was present to rubber stamp the proposal, about which he apparently knew little. The PSC Administrative Staff found it inconsequential that the very few requests for sewer service came primarily from family members of the man who would most benefit from the contract. As a government entity, it is nothing short of amazing that the PSC would find this inconsequential. "The Commission has never considered the relationship of a requester for service to the proposer..." This is a grievous error. Relationships matter. It is hard to think of an area of legal precedent where they are immaterial. It is past time for the Commission to consider what Islanders are only too aware of. This hapless sewer proposal is a solution to funding a man's future in search of a problem that does not exist. The overwhelming majority of Islanders are crystal clear that there is no need for EU's proposal and that septic tanks alone reliably work on LGI without polluting surrounding waters.

Please Commissioners, just say no. Stop this disaster before it starts. Your commitment is stated in print as providing services that are "safe, reasonable and reliable." Environmental Utilities' proposal will fail all 3 tests. Let our waters remain pristine. Keep endless heavy equipment from trampling and forever erasing indigenous archeological sites and burial grounds known to locals, as well as ruining shelter for a panoply of animals that share our abundant endangered gopher tortoise homes. Don't allow one man's scheme to burden the many for something unneeded, unwanted, destined to fail and certain to damage a fragile last vestige of Old Florida. It is never easy to do the right thing. We still trust that you will do it anyway. We believed that those of you who sat for the hearings displayed sincerity and common sense in your time with us. Thank you for listening yet again. You are our only hope to literally save our island.

Respectfully yours,

Terrie Weibley  
9782 Little Gasparilla Island

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Maggie Main <fancymagpie95@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 25, 2025 8:49 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; +Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us  
**Subject:** EU sewer proposal for Little Gasparilla Island

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To whom it Should Concern,

I am writing ... again ... to reiterate objection for E.U.'s proposal to the installation of sewers on the LOW POPULATION DENSITY barrier island known as Little Gasparilla Island. It has been proven time and time again that this proposal is not needed, not wanted and could potentially cause an environmental disaster in times of power outages, storms and hurricanes to name a few. With a permanent resident population of only 220 this proposal is ludicrous.

The application contradicts Charlotte County's Comprehensive Plan and Sewer Master Plan, *a finding consistent with the PSC's prior denial*.

EU underestimates the project's costs by millions (e.g., construction, easements, and island logistics) and lacks the technical expertise to execute it, especially given the unique challenges of our bridgeless islands.

EU has not secured the necessary easements—over 21,000 linear feet on Little Gasparilla Island alone—nor shown it can, with many islanders unwilling to grant them.

I ask you - What has changed? The last proposal was denied 3 years ago. Those advisors who are recommending the go ahead have no idea how this wee island works. What was the point of the hearings held where it was clearly evident the proposed sewer input was a bad idea from the start. Well maintained septic systems / AI systems are THEE most environmentally suitable way to deal with waste on this bridgeless barrier island.

You have bigger fish to fry. The antiquated and failing infrastructure (that we presumably would tie into) on the mainland should be your top priority.

We respectfully implore you to again, deny this certificate. 🙏

Sincerely,

Margaret Main

Dr. Dan McMaster

8550 Little Gasparilla Island

## Antonia Hover

---

**From:** Debbie Dunn <debbiedunn8457@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 25, 2025 8:44 PM  
**To:** Office of Chairman La Rosa  
**Subject:** DENY EU APPLICATION Docket #20240032-SU

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Good evening. I am writing as a property owner on Little Gasparilla Island. Unfortunately, our home was one of the three that burned down during hurricane helene so we've nothing left but a sandy lot, and I might add: A PERFECTLY INTACT SEPTIC TANK.

We're currently in the process of planning to rebuild and have engineered plans, have had surveys done and have already spent nearly \$40,000.

We are going to have to install another septic tank (new code requirement) in order to move forward building this house, which is going to cost a considerable sum. As I'm sure you're aware, we live on a barrier island with no bridges and have to barge everything over which greatly increases the cost of everything we do.

It is highly unfair that we have to pay for a new septic system and then be forced to tear it out within a year or two in order to accommodate a sewer system that we do not want nor need and also fear. And, there are many others in this same situation.

Island-wide fear is due to the lack of effectiveness of the kind of system being proposed, the time it will take to complete along with the interruptions to our right for the peaceful enjoyment of our property. The destruction to our island will compound the devastation already inflicted by the recent hurricanes. In addition, the estimated costs are going to far exceed the estimate presented by the applicant and does not include the upgraded electrical system that each home or property will be required to provide.

And then, God forbid, what will happen should there be another storm the magnitude of Ian, Helene or Milton. What will happen each time the power goes down on the island (which most recently went down for the entire day on March 24th) and happens often? What is the plan for another catastrophic storm surge? Who will be responsible for the damage to property owners due to effluence escape?

The majority of the people on the island do not want this and the very few in favor appear to have personal reasons: either they are related to the applicant, good friends of the applicant or stand to benefit from the approval of the subsequent project.

I listened via zoom to all of the people who came and spoke at the hearing. Nearly all were against it.

The testimony that I found most appalling, and also quite interesting, was from the gentleman who stated that he had been offered to buy this sewer system for eleven million dollars. Why would he say this if it wasn't true? With all due respect, this has shade of backroom shenanigans.

I am disappointed (and quite honestly, disgusted) should there have been any sort of back room positioning in order for persons to make money off the backs of people who have already been through several traumatic, damaging and expensive experiences since 2021, some losing everything with no federal, state or local help.

I have to say that personally for us, this development will have an impact on whether we do rebuild, because we simply can't afford to put in a new septic system only to have it torn out; have to undergo further interference on the island again in order to put in this unwanted and unnecessary sewer system. The only advantage I see is not for the island, the environment or our people, but for the enrichment of a private company (person) that plans to sell as soon as possible.

There has been no evidence presented of environmental damage to sensitive areas that surround our beautiful island. The current systems in place to the north, south and east of us all had major problems due to the fact that the systems did not perform as planned during and after these recent storms, subsequently wreaking havoc with overflow waste flowing into and onto private property, not to mention the surrounding waters.

I would ask you from the bottom of my heart to deny this application due to the following:

1. The applicant is not qualified to install and operate the planned system.
2. He (jack boyer) has expressed to others the plans to sell the "slam drunk" project to enrich himself, and has stated to others that this is "his retirement plan".
3. 95% of the community opposes this application.
4. Most owners are not able to afford it and will have to sell which, in all likelihood, will create a "land grab" by those who wish to change one of the last, beautiful vestiges of Old Florida... for personal monetary gain.
5. Many owners will refuse to give an easement or right of way which will result in long, embroiled and acrimonious lawsuits.
6. To add insult to injury, should this be forced upon us, we will be obligated to pay monthly fees for the "privilege" of having this unwanted atrocity after being strong-armed to fund it in the first place.
7. The likelihood of unforeseen mishaps due to the nature of our unique island, and the lack of the adequate infrastructure to support such a fiasco, would surely reap dire consequences to our surrounding environment, not to mention our individual homes and land.

I appreciate you taking a moment to read my letter and to consider my request, as I'm sure it will be same request of many islanders who have like opinions and desires.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Deborah Dunn  
Property Owner  
8314 Grand Ave  
Placida, FL 33946  
386-479-7981

## Antonia Hover

---

**From:** A Ridings <a.ridings@att.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 25, 2025 5:11 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Chairman La Rosa  
**Cc:** Pat Ridings  
**Subject:** DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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We understand the committee staff may in fact support the granting of EU's application for the central sewer certification on LGI. We honestly cannot fathom the reasoning for this conclusion. The vast majority of homeowners are fully against such a system for all the reasons presented in the countless letters you have received and the number of owners who spoke out at the recent hearings.

Little Gasparilla Island is a small bridge less barrier island. We have no roads, no commercial properties, and no amenities. This tiny island is not suited for high density development, which we all assume will be the next push. Proof of this includes the staffs comments as stated in the filing "requests for service from existing property owners and "potential developers". If you look at how few existing property owners are requesting this service versus the vast number of property owners who adamantly reject this service you will see for yourself the majority are opposed. And who are these so called "potential developers" that have a voice in our islands future? We believe the island should remain "Old Florida" and in that belief we also support the new Bocilla islands Chain Conservation District Act (HB 4077) to ensure the islands future.

Your prior denial of this application is still the very same, EU cannot demonstrate a "need" for service. Nor is it in the public's best interest. Nor do they have easement rights. Nor do they have the expertise to engage in such an endeavor. Nor do they have the financial means. If they get this certificate, they will not be around long. They will transfer/sell and retire happily. This is not about what's best for the island, it's about what is best for the Boyers and those "potential developers".

We respectfully ask that you again deny the Application of Certificate by Environmental Utilities (EU) for the proposed central sewer system.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Jp and Angela Ridings  
8318 Grand  
LGI

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 11, 2024, at 6:40 PM, Angie Ridings <a.ridings@att.net> wrote:

>

> Dear Clerk/Commissioners,

> We are truly surprised Environmental Utilities (EU) request has once again been submitted when the prior application was denied in 2022 (Old Document # 20200226-SU). Our objections in regard to EU providing a wastewater service to Little Gasparilla Island have not changed. The conclusions for denial remain the same now as in the original filing.

>

> There has been no evidence provided that supports the need for such service, and no request for such service has been requested or warranted. Nor will it be a request in the future. Little Gasparilla Island is a small private, bridge-less barrier island that we believe falls under the Rural Service Area Classification, which prohibits the county to extend a central sewer service to a bridge-less barrier island. Individual septic systems are already in place. This island is not suited for high-density development.

>

> Again, how does EU plan to use "our" private property and/or easements for their pump stations/waste collection system without cost to them? Our property will just be donated? Access to our private property would be required at all times in order for EU to empty their septic tank. How is installing "their" septic tank and taking out our septic tank any improvement? In addition, their system needs to be connected to each homeowner's electrical service. In Florida, electricity is unavailable quite frequently. Especially on a barrier island, the time it takes to restore electricity can be extensive thereby making the system unusable with the likelihood of a sewer backup. How is that environmentally sound?

>

> The "estimated" cost to homeowners is astronomical. Best guess hook up fee at \$40,000, plus this fee, and that fee and oh yes, that other fee. Not including the wastewater charge and probably a maintenance charge, and I'm sure there is just one more charge to add on. This doesn't even include the water bill that EU currently charges, which is radically high as well. With the recent devastation from Hurricane Ian, many islanders are still engaged in fighting with insurance companies, and many have already paid out large sums to rebuild their homes. Several have just put in new septic systems and others have spent thousands on improvements. This places excessive burden on all the homeowners of LGI.

>

> The owners of EU still have no technical expertise needed to operate a wastewater system on a barrier island, nor have they provided any documentation of qualified professionals who they "may" hire to operate such a system. No health concerns have been identified, nor any water quality issues. IF this were the case why would the County still continue to issue permits for new septic systems on the island?

>

> It makes me ponder, what is the real reason this application is back on the table?

> Please consider our concerns. They are the very same as before, nothing has changed.

> Best Regards,

>

>> JP Ridings

>> pridings1109@gmail.com

>> Angela Ridings

>> a.ridings@att.net

>

>

>> On Jan 20, 2022, at 1:01 PM, Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US> wrote:

>>

>> Good Afternoon, JP Ridings,

>>

>> We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket 20200226-SU and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

>>

>> Thank you.

>>

>> Lisa Smith

>>

>> Commission Deputy Clerk I

>> Office of the Commission Clerk

>> Florida Public Service Commission

>> 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.

>> Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

>> 850-413-6770

>>

>> PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your email message may be subject to public disclosure.

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Angie Ridings <a.ridings@att.net>

>> Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 12:46 PM

>> To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>

>> Cc: Pat Ridings <pridings1109@gmail.com>

>> Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

>>

>> Dear Clerk of the Commission,

>>

>> As an interested party in property located on Little Gasparilla Island, We object to the Application of Certificate by Environmental Utilities (EU) for the proposed central sewer system based on the following:

>>

>> 1. Environmental Impact. Little Gasparilla is a Barrier Island with no connecting roadways or bridges to the mainland of Florida, you arrive only by boat. There are no commercial facilities, no roadways or retail development on the island, only our modest homes. It is old Florida, not Boca Grande. If a sewer pipeline is installed across the intracoastal waterway, how will a pipe leak in the middle of the waterway be detected? Who will be responsible for cleanup of such an environmental catastrophe? Who will be responsible for maintenance and/or equipment failure of such proposed sewer line? A private company with no employees or experience? To our knowledge, no water testing has been performed to determine the actual need of a sewer line vs. the septic systems currently in place. The waste management system in Florida is already overtaxed. If a central sewer system is installed, how will the mainland system handle additional households from the barrier islands, along with any additional development occurring on the mainland itself? Millions of gallons of raw sewage have been spilled into waterways by damaged lines throughout the State of Florida; therefore, is a sewer pipeline across the waterway the correct solution for our island and the environment?

>>

>> 2. Financial Stability/Experience of EU. Environmental Utilities (EU) is a "for profit" private company with no financial history and unknown sewer utility management experience regarding environmentally sensitive endeavors such as tying a sewer line from the mainland to a private barrier island. EU should be required to provide a history of all sewer projects of this magnitude, especially since it involves environmentally sensitive areas including the intracoastal waterway. Do they have such history? No, they do not. In addition, how will EU financially complete this project? What happens when EU runs out of money or goes bankrupt prior to the completed project? Where does that leave the homeowners? Where is our recourse?

>>

>> 3. Unknown Cost to Homeowners. There are so many unknown/hidden costs to the homeowners with this proposal. An estimated upfront hookup fee of \$15,000-20,000 per homeowner has been rumored regarding the system connection and current septic removal. Since there are no "roads" on the island how will large equipment transverse the island to fill or remove all septic tanks without destroying private property? Who pays for that damage? In addition, no estimated cost of monthly rates, no estimated amount of maintenance costs and no estimated operational costs have been provided. What happens when equipment needs to be replaced in five years due to the nature of island living? Will this be our expense directly or indirectly through rate hikes? Power outages occur frequently on the island, what happens if the system uses a grinder pump? The system will be unable to operate without power, resulting in a sewer back-up. Is that more environmentally friendly than septic? Will homeowners be required to purchase and have generators in place to ensure EU's system is operational during power outages? Will the homeowners pay for the charges to run those generators? In addition, if there is an upfront fee required, there should be other payment options available to homeowners such as payments spread over time. Rates should be fair and equitable, not just to the benefit of a private company who can increase rates whenever they want.

>>

>> 4. 2017 Sewer Master Plan. If this sewer project is state mandated, why is this environmentally sensitive project being proposed by an unknown inexperienced sewer utility management company (EU) and not handled by the County and/or State of Florida?

>>

>> 5. Location of Lift Station(s) and Sewer Lines. No map has been provided indicating the location of any lift stations, lines, etc. The island is private; therefore, no easements. Homeowners should be provided with a map(s) of the proposed location of all lift stations, lines, etc. and given ample time to review such plans prior to any approval or commencement. IF this project is approved, EU should be required to pay all homeowners current market value for any and all easements they may require for implementation.

>>

>> Possible Alternatives:

>> 1. Perform a Water Quality Test to determine if such a system is necessary.

>> 2. Property owners commit to have current septic systems inspected, and upgraded/improved (if necessary).

>> 3. County to initiate, complete and maintain the project vs. a "for profit" private company with no financial history or sewer utility management experience.

>>

>> As a stakeholder in the proposed service area, it is important to have all of the relevant information regarding the proposed central sewer, including but not limited to, the proposed rates, connection fees, maintenance and operational costs, homeowners recourse, and the type of system intended for installation. We therefore request that EU's request be denied.

>>

>> Sincerely,

>>

>> JP Ridings

>> pridings1109@gmail.com

>> Angela Ridings

>> a.ridings@att.net

## Antonia Hover

---

**From:** Novak, Rick <rmnovak@uic.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 25, 2025 4:47 PM  
**To:** Office of Chairman La Rosa  
**Subject:** Deny EU Application-RE Docket #20240032-SU

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

Dear Commissioner La Rosa,

I am writing as a home owner on Little Gasparilla Island to voice my strongest possible opposition to the above docket for a sewer system on the Bocilla barrier Islands. There is absolutely no need for this system as no problem exists with the current management of sewage on these islands and the overwhelming majority of homeowners oppose it. In the words of President Reagan, “ If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it”. This proposal is a money making scheme for the FOR PROFIT Environmental Utilities who have NO experience with such a system. The costs would be passed on to us owners and is estimated to cost each home owners in excess of \$40,000, plus monthly fees once in place. They are proposing an outdated low pressure technology that Charlotte County won’t install any more because of the excessive cost to maintain. These have a high failure rate and spillage of raw sewage into our delicate island and intracoastal environment will be disastrous for wildlife, the fisheries and tourism. Construction fo this system will be very disruptive to the island residents. These are bridgeless islands and access is dependent on a ferry which does not operate on a regular schedule. If there is an emergency with the sewage system, access to repair it will be slow in arriving.

This system will be an undue burden on homeowners: each homeowner will have to provide electric permits and service as well as a generator for the frequent power outages on the island. We would also have to give away 15’ of property for an easement. Also, there is no oversight for this project, no performance bond required and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure.

Please do not impose this terrible project on the people of the Bocilla Islands and vote no again on this project.

Sincerely,

Rick Novak  
9498 Alborado Rd  
Little Gasparilla Island  
Placida, FL 33946

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Roy & Wendy Petteway <oranges@embarqmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2025 10:29 AM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** Re: Objection to Environmental Utilities, LLC

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

This letter is to strenuously object to the approval of the wastewater project for Little Gasparilla Island (LGI), Knight Island, Don Pedro Island and Palm Island by Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU).

As a homeowner on LGI, I was disheartened and devastated to read that the committee recommended this be approved by the Public Service Commission (PSC). If the Charlotte County Commission is indeed in favor of this utility, why then hasn't Charlotte County proceeded to do so on its own? Why was I just given a permit for an environmentally friendly septic system for my house I'm rebuilding after losing it during Hurricane Ian? Why isn't the county installing a wastewater system, and a payment plan made available, as had been done in Grove City years ago? The financial cost to homeowners on the barrier islands is tremendous, with some homeowners unable to bear the cost, and they would have to sell their homes, rather than pay the outrageous fees required of homeowners to comply with the installation of the wastewater system. Please read the hundreds of letters sent during the qualifying period, detailing the cost involved, and the detriment to the islands this would be.

I am begging you to reconsider the recommendation to allow EU to have the license to install a wastewater system on LGI and the entire island strand. The island has such a precious ecosystem, with native flora and fauna, and with wild animals and humans living together. We have pairs of Bald Eagles nesting on the island, bobcats roam, endangered Gopher Tortoises, armadillos, osprey, rabbits, etc., who live in harmony on the island, and those animals would have their habitat irreparably destroyed with the installation of the wastewater system.

Mr. Boyer also will have an uphill battle obtaining the easements required to install the system, despite his claims that it would be no problem to do so. He has made false statements concerning easements, and has led people to believe it would be easier than actually so, and must more costly. Most of the "roads" on the island are actually private property and would necessitate easements from the owners to run the underground pipes required. It would run into the millions of dollars for him to just obtain the easements he would need.

If you remember, there were many, many letters of opposition to the project, as well as a very large amount of people who were able to come speak at the public meeting held by the PSC. Those sentiments have not changed. We overwhelmingly feel that the wastewater project proposed by Mr. Boyer would have such a detrimental effect on the island, as to change it forever, with no chance of ever being the piece of paradise it is now. The potential for a sewage spill is great, as Mr. Boyer has demonstrated with the breaks in our water supply that happen at an alarming rate. The delicate ecosystem of the Lemon Bay Estuary and the island itself would suffer catastrophic damage from such a spill.

The island property owners do not want this utility to proceed, there has been no demonstrated need for it, other than Mr. Boyer wants to do so to make money. The few people who have written or spoken to the PSC desiring the project to move forward are people with a financial stake in doing so, or are Mr. Boyer's family.

I am praying you reconsider the recommendation and deny the application of Environmental Utilities, LLC to install a wastewater system of Little Gasparilla Island, Knight Island, Don Pedro Island and Palm Island.

Wendy Petteway

9744 Little Gasparilla Island

Placida, Florida

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** bgood2go@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 26, 2025 5:09 PM  
**To:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; mfriedman@deanmead.com  
**Cc:** Bill.Truex@CharlotteCountyFL.gov; Melissa Goodhead; bgood2go@gmail.com; pie@palmislandestates.com  
**Subject:** Response to Document No. 01949-2025 / Docket No. 20240032-SU -EU Sewer Application Objection - 03262025  
**Attachments:** Rebuttal Dkt-20240032-SU-Doc 01949-2025 03262025.pdf

Commissioners of the Public Service Commission,

I am writing primarily in response to the Document No. 01949-2025 conveying the PSC's post hearing decisions but also to reiterating our stance of opposition to the EU application for centralized sewer service as indicated in Docket No. 20240032-SU. Our reasons and facts for opposition still remain the same as in our previously submitted documentation, which you have already read and are on record.

Records will indicate that the rejected EU application in 2022 was denied primarily due to the fact that no need could be or was established to justify the removal of all septic systems and the installation of a centralized sewage system on DPI/LGI/Palm Island/ Thornton Key.

To this specific point, it has now been made abundantly clear that the EU, PSC and county have colluded to address and eliminate this one particular single point of failure on this current application, potentially allowing EU to move forward.

Despite the lack of any evidence or proof or data supporting or justifying a need for service, in any way, being submitted by EU, and all of the data supporting septic systems and clean water tests in the area in question being submitted by opposing counsel, the PSC has decided against even considering any empirical data or facts. They have instead made a decision to create their own "standard" or "criteria" which will allow EU to avoid having to provide any such data and still be able to fulfill the requirement of having established a need for service. Yes, everyone can see the hidden agenda at work here! Why else would real data and such overwhelming opposition be ignored and disregarded? Even the tone of the writing of this official and public 01949-2025 document is slanted and condescending to the home owners and opposing counsel and in complete positive favor of EU. Where is any oversight going on here? None! The fox are running the hen house. As has been conveyed to this committee many times already and as an acting public servant in this industry / field, you are aware that for each and every project, the very first step to establishing its viability is whether or not there is actually a valid need for it. In this case, we have overwhelming evidence and public voices that prove that it is NOT NEEDED! Again however, this is being completely and openly ignored by this committee. Why?

Utilities must bear the burden to prove that a project addresses critical issues or provides significant benefits to the community and its users, without exception! And it is the PSC's responsibility and duty to ensure they are doing this. Reminder, the PSC is working for "we the people" and you are supposed to be acting as an advocate for us, not big business or special interests!

As quoted from Docket No. 20240032-SU / Document No. 01949-2025 dated 03/20/2025 showing post hearing decisions the commissioners have decided to make rules up as they go.

Second, the rule requires the utility to provide a copy of all requests for service from property owners or developers in areas not currently served. As noted above, the application contained 29 requests from developers, current residents, and one landowner with a house under construction. At the service hearing, the speakers challenged the number of requests because some are from family members, friends, and developers who requested service for multiple properties. (1/28 S-TR 97, 147-148; 1/29 S-TR 78-79) However, the Commission has never considered the relationship of a requester to the utility owner in considering a need for service, nor has it given weight to the relative number of requests. It is not uncommon for the Commission to grant certificates to utilities owned by a developer, accepting the request from the owner of the development company for service when the utility is owned by the same individual as proof of a need for service.<sup>6</sup>

This attempt at conjuring up a rule / criteria to establish a need for service is an utter embarrassment and insult to all human intelligence. The fact that this commission and our government actually had the audacity to put this in writing is a clear demonstration of the abysmal lack of respect or consideration this committee has for the people on DPI /Palm Island/LGI, Florida tax payers or for anyone reading these official documents.

This committee has no power to define or redefine what the criteria is to establish a need for service, in this case or any other. And just because “the Commission has never considered the relationship of a requester to the utility owner in considering a need for service...” and the fact that they reference that they have used this same “reason” before, only shows an admission that the committee is and has been incompetent and negligent of duty and due diligence in avoiding a conflict of interest, which allowing this “reason” creates instantly! Not to mention their duty to protecting the safety and well-being of the constituents and their property which they represent. Again, anyone with a middle school education can comprehend and see through this juvenile attempt.

Below are some examples of other cases where need for service was required to be established and they ALL required empirical data and facts to establish those needs, NOT just a verbal or written request from a family member or investor or provider standing to make a profit. These points I mentioned here are exactly the same specific criteria mentioned in these other cases. They mention these specifically so that absolutely no conflict of interest is created or possible and that the publics’ safety and well-being are put first and foremost and not being put in jeopardy by some business scam looking to take advantage and make a profit, like what is happening right here and now! These would be the requirements and criteria we were looking for from this committee to adhere to.

“Private utilities seeking to replace septic systems with a sewage system must provide substantial evidence to justify the need and the change. Here are some examples of the proof they would need to submit:

1. Environmental Impact Assessment
  - Data proving groundwater contamination from failing septic systems in the specified area
  - Data / evidence of surface water pollution linked to septic system failures
  - Projections of long-term ecological benefits between septic and centralized sewage systems
2. Public Health Analysis
  - Current data comparisons of public health outcomes between septic-dependent and sewered communities
3. Cost-Benefit Analysis
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4. Community Support Evidence
  - Results from public surveys or town hall meetings documenting residents support or opposition of proposed system
  - Petitions or letters from local businesses and organizations in favor or against
5. Technical Feasibility Studies
  - Engineering reports detailing the proposed sewage system design and implementation

- Topographical analyses showing the viability of installing sewer lines and environmental impacts
6. Financial Plans
    - Detailed budgets for the sewage system installation project
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  7. Environmental Justice Considerations
    - Analysis of how the transition would impact users and communities financially
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**Sources:**

<https://www.epa.gov/septic>

<https://www.atsenvironmental.com>

<https://www.nassauswcd.org>

<https://efc.ny.gov>

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov>

However, we have been clearly notified, in writing, this is not the case and will not be in the future. This committee required zero real, applicable data of any kind for water quality, contamination, environmental impacts, etc and ignored all data supporting septic systems provided by the residents and counsel opposing this project.

The resolution and reasoning provided by the commission in this document, could not create a more clear, concise and perfect example of a conflict of interest! Given the fact, as also noted in this document, that the only parties who were in favor of this EU project were ONLY a few EU applicant family members, investors and potential providers who would profit from this project, period! For the commission or anyone with an IQ over five to suggest that this is now a valid criteria and a justified reason to establish a need for service is so far out of the realm of reality, even a ten year old would know that this is a joke. This makes the old excuse “the dog ate my homework” seem like Einstein’s theory of relativity in comparison. It is so far beyond ridiculous that there are no words to describe it! Yet this commission wants intelligent adults to accept this pathetic attempt as something real and legitimate. Not happening!

Again, this is so completely insulting, offensive and contemptuous to everyone who lives on these islands trying to protect what is ours! How are taxpayers supposed to have any respect for a commission which proposes such chimerical ideas for real world issues. Not to mention that you ignored every one of our opposition letters / data, arguments, comments and pleas, which were overwhelmingly the majority. They cannot and will not. Nor will they be forgetting this total disrespect and these hidden agenda, infantile actions, adversely affecting all of our lives, come re-election time.

In closing, perhaps try thinking about what if this was you and your family and your home in jeopardy.

Sincerely,  
Brian Goodhead

**Brian and Melissa Goodhead**  
**53 Palm Drive, Placida, FL 33946**

**March 26, 2025**

**Commission Clerk**  
**Office of Commission Clerk**  
**Florida Public Service Commission**  
**2540 Shumard Oak Blvd**  
**Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850**

VIA EMAIL: [clerk@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:clerk@psc.state.fl.us)

**Re:** Docket No. 20240032-SU

Document No. 01949-2025

Commissioners of the Public Service Commission,

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**Sources:**

<https://www.epa.gov/septic>

<https://www.atsenvironmental.com>

<https://www.nassauswcd.org>

<https://efc.ny.gov>

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