

Nickalus Holmes

From: Nickalus Holmes on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 3:53 PM
To: 'Kathryn Rivera'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: [Docket # 20240032] Little Gasparilla Island Sewer Application

Good Afternoon Ms. Rivera

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20240032, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Thank you

Nick Holmes
Commission Deputy Clerk II
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
850-413-6770

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From: Kathryn Rivera <kathryn.rivera.010@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 3:50 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Cc: Juan Rivera <riverapg@comcast.net>
Subject: [Docket # 20240032] Little Gasparilla Island Sewer Application

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Dear Commissioners,

My name is Kathryn Rivera and I represent the Rivera Family Limited Partnership. I am a resident of LGI at 9400 Little Gasparilla Island Unit D6 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 sewers on our island.

Bottom line up front: the change of location of the waste water transmission line to the HBBC property would render our property uninhabitable for an unknown amount of time. This is completely unacceptable, especially given that it affects 132 families. We all pay our property taxes just like everyone else on the island, and constructing on our septic plant drain field is simply outrageous. I do not see how the Commissioners, who in theory should represent the best interest of their constituents, could possibly allow this to happen to 132 families - most of whom have not been able to use our condos since Hurricane Ian ravaged our island in September 2022. Yes, that's almost 3 years many of us have not even been able to use our condos, and then we were flooded TWICE

last fall with Hurricanes Helene and Milton. And now you want to close our complex down for a sewer line we don't even need or want? Please, please, please, deny this application.

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.

132 Families are being denied their due process because of the change made by EU without notification.

If EU plans to use the model as indicated in the 2017 CC SMP, the pump house for the sewer will be built on the HBBC Septic Plant drain field. Building anything on our drain field will result in the community being shut down completely while the construction is underway. It will also force us to hook up to the EU sewer despite being excluded from the scope of this project. How can this be done without any kind of notification? Again, 132 families are being denied our due process.

Because we were excluded from the scope of this application, there have been no estimates of the hook up costs for the condos. If this scenario plays out, HBBC would have to be the first people forced to hook up to the sewer system. We wouldn't have any recourse to this questionable action by EU, we wouldn't have any indication of the costs associated with this action, we wouldn't be able to use our homes resulting in additional living expenses until the initial sewer construction was completed and we would have to assume the costs of decommissioning our septic plant. Is this fair & reasonable for the 132 families that are excluded from the scope of this application.

132 families that are directly affected have not been notified. 132 families currently using a DEP permitted septic plant do not need a sewer line brought to our property. 132 families have no idea what the financial burden will be if this transmission line is brought to our property.

Please do the right thing and deny this application.

Respectfully,

Kathryn M. Rivera, P.E.
HBBC Unit D6