

**Charlie Smith**

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**From:** Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 1:53 PM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket No. 20240032-SU  
**Attachments:** Re: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket No. 20240032-SU Waste water service proposal; Re: Please Deny EU Application Docket # Docket #20240032-SU; Fwd: DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Place the attached emails in Docket No. 20240032

Thanks

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** LAWRENCE THEES <ltsail@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 1:41 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

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

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Thank you for listening. Thank you for your work. Thank you for understanding.

Regards,

Larry Thees.  
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 31, 2025, at 3:06 PM, LAWRENCE THEES <ltsail@aol.com> wrote:

**Please consider these additional reasons why we on the island oppose this proposed sewer system:**

### **The Main Reasons We Oppose Private Sewer**

#### **No Need for Service**

There has been no water testing or any evidence of need for sewer and there has not been any polling of the community for interest.

#### **Excessive Cost**

The realistic estimated cost to the homeowner is over \$40K up front! There will be no “pay-over-time”, no low-cost loans and no way to opt out.

[Learn More](#)

## **Private & For Profit**

Because EU would be a private company running the sewer instead of the county, we won't be afforded payment plans, there's no competition, and no central oversight.

[Learn More](#)

## **Outdated Technology**

EU wants to use a low-pressure systems, which Charlotte County won't install any more because of the excessive maintenance they require.

[Learn More](#)

## **Damage to the Environment**

The proposed sewer project will cause years of disruption and destroy natural wildlife habitats for decades. The island will never be the same!

[Learn More](#)

## **Traffic Congestion**

We all know how long the ferry waits can be and how difficult getting around the island can be with FEMA trucks. Imagine that, but worse.

## **Maintenance & Emergency Situations**

The required grinder pump at each home will be susceptible to our harsh salt air. If there's an emergency repair needed, how will they get here after ferry hours?

[Learn More](#)

## **Undue Installation Burden to the Homeowner**

Each homeowner will have to provide electric permits and service, plumbing and the system will need a generator to run in a power outage.

[Learn More](#)

## **Mandatory Easements**

Plan on giving away an estimated 15' runway of your property from your house to the road that you can't build on, drive over or put anything permanent on.

[Learn More](#)

## **Undesirable Development**

Central Sewer opens the door to highrises. We've seen it on Fort Myers Beach and Anna Maria Island. We do not want to see it here.

## **No Oversight**

There is no performance bond required and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 31, 2025, at 1:57 PM, Larry Thees <ltsail@aol.com> wrote:

I was dismayed (appalled really) to read the staff recommendation to approve this proposed sewer system. It points to 29 property owners supporting the application but fails to mention that the large majority of those 29 are family members, friends and associates of the applicant and a single, non-resident property owner of 17 lots which counted as 17 of the

29. When balanced against the near unanimous opposition to the sewer system by actual owner/residents, it is a disingenuous distortion of reality. I own 3 properties on the island. Please count my voice as the voices of 3.

There was absolutely no evidence of any environmental harm caused by our safe septic systems. There was testimony that the applicant has offered for sale his Sewer company for \$11 million upon receiving approval. This makes sense since they don't have any experience in operating any sewer system. Why was this ignored? This is a money grab, plain and simple, upon the backs of taxpaying residents who oppose this entire scheme. The preliminary staff recommendation reads as if it was written by the applicant himself. This is shocking! Shame on whoever was responsible for this inherently dishonest report.

At the very least, a comprehensive environmental study on our specific island water quality and any actual connection to our septic systems should be require4d before approval. My septic system has survived 3 hurricanes in 2 years without any failure, along with all of my neighbors. At the hearings we heard testimony from 2 speakers about "poop" floating in flooded yards after Milton. Nobody else saw this or experienced this. Interestingly, those 2 speakers are direct relatives of the applicant. I call BS on that testimony.

Luckily, you are in a position to save us from this tyranny by a minority. Taxpaying residents deserve better. Please reject this application outright or , minimally, require environmental testing and clarification from the county as to why they no longer permit this type of sewer system on the mainland, but somehow it is just fine for our environmentally sensitive island.

We pray that you will do the right thing.

Larry Thees

Tel: 732-489-7900

8725 Placida Road, Suite 7  
Box 230  
Placida, FL 33946

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** David Stubbs <david@DavidStubbsDesign.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 1:27 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Cc:** Susanne Stubbs  
**Subject:** Docket No. 20240032-SU Waste water service proposal

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Commissioners,

Thank you for your time and due diligence in the consideration of this proposal.

As a design professional familiar with systems, I never understood there was a demonstrated need or if in fact this need could be established if science was followed. If data doesn't support the need, it is in my opinion illogical for a utility to place what appears to be an open-ended, unrealistic cost structure creating duplication to what's working. Unfortunately, a series of grinders and battery backup systems goes against simplicity. If its not broke, don't change it and place the burden upon a group of people still reeling from the destruction of 3 hurricanes.

Be Well,

David A Stubbs II

352 S Gulf Blvd  
Placida, FL  
706.338.3204  
[www.DavidStubbsDesign.com](http://www.DavidStubbsDesign.com)

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Rebecca Hagelin <hagelin.rebecca@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 12:21 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:** Re: Please Deny EU Application Docket # Docket #20240032-SU

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Commissioners: my husband and I are near tears of joy right now over your decision today to deny EU's application. We are so grateful that you heard the voices of the islanders!

Thank you for being true to your mission and to demonstrating what public service looks like - truly serving the public. Many officials have forgotten that essential mandate in a democratic republic for those who hold the power.

Your research, comments today, and principled reasoning are exemplary for all who serve in positions of power. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

And a huge thank you for protecting our fragile island ecosystems by denying such a huge, unneeded and unproven system.

With great admiration and respect,  
Rebecca

Rebecca Hagelin  
[703.915.7288](tel:703.915.7288)

On Mar 28, 2025, at 3:57 PM, Rebecca Hagelin <hagelin.rebecca@gmail.com> wrote:

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 septics, 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](tel:703.915.7288)

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Judy Cornelius <jcornelius9444@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 9:46 AM  
**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:** Fwd: DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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>> Good morning,

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>> I am once again writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed private sewer system for Little Gasparilla. I cannot comprehend how this has gotten to this point. A private, for profit entity with no experience installing or maintaining sewer systems will possibly be granted a no bid contract which forces homeowners to pay massive upfront and ongoing costs for a system no one has asked for and no one has proven a need for. And that doesn't mention the taking of property required to make it happen. My wife and I own two properties on LGI - 8522 and 8526. We will fight this vigorously for as long as it takes and we urge you to deny the application.

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>> Judy Cornelius

>> 8522 Little Gasparilla and 8526 Grand Avenue

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>> Sent from my iPad