

Ruth Nettles

090189-SU

From: kevin begos [director@seafoodtaskforce.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2009 3:48 PM
To: Filings@psc.state.fl.us
Cc: Anna Williams; REILLY.STEVE
Subject: Comment and Request / Docket 090189-SU
Attachments: PSC letter.pdf

Please accept the attached request and comments regarding Docket 090189-SU.

a. Office Amison

President
 Franklin County Oyster & Seafood Task Force, Inc.
 PO Box 404
 Apalachicola, FL 32329
 850 653 8340
director@seafoodtaskforce.org

b. PSC Docket Number 090189-SU;

Application for original certificate for a proposed wastewater system
 and request for bifurcation in Franklin County by Water Management Services, Inc.

c. Franklin County Oyster & Seafood Task Force, Inc.

d. 2 pages

c. Comment and request to address PSC Commission at any Agenda Conference.

Office Amison
 President
 Franklin County Oyster & Seafood Task Force, Inc.
 850 653 8340

*Done
 5/19/09
 RVP.*

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE
 04951 MAY 19 8
 FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK



May 19, 2009

Commissioners Nancy Argenziano, Lisa Polak Edgar,
Matthew M. Carter II, Katrina J. McMurrian, Nathan A. Skop
Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oaks Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: PSC Docket # 090189-SU

Task Force Officers:

President

Otáca Amison, Amison Seafood

Vice-President

Billy Dalton, oysterman

Tommy Ward, Buddy Ward and Sons Seafood

Bruce Rotella, oysterman

John Richards, oysterman

Ron Harrison, Leavins Seafood

David Barber, Barber's Seafood

Lynn Martina, Lynn's Quality Seafood

Anthony Coulter, crab fisherman

David Gilbert, shrimper

Executive Director

Kevin Begos

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850 653 3351

PO Box 404

Apalachicola, FL 32329

Secretary

Charlene Burke

Franklin County / UF Oyster Lab

OUR MISSION

To represent and protect the local Seafood Industry and all those who work in it; educate people about the unique seafood heritage and environment of northwest Florida; promote and provide public access to Apalachicola Bay for future generations; and encourage sustainable harvesting and the use of science to benefit the environment, and consumers.

Dear Public Service Commissioners:

This letter is a request to address the Commissioners at any Agenda Conference of the above Docket, and to note serious factual errors in the original application for a Proposed Wastewater System by Water Management Services, Inc. (WMSI).

Applicant WMSI claims that there is a "critical" need for a wastewater treatment system on St. George Island, and that "*In recent years, the adjacent waters have been closed numerous times due to high bacterial counts.*"

In fact, there is no record of adjacent waters being "closed" in recent years due to any events from the proposed WMSI service area, or from St. George Island in general.

The Bay has occasionally been closed due to Red Tide, flood, hurricanes or exceptionally heavy local rainfall, but none of those events can be blamed on St. George Island, and such natural events would not be mitigated or reduced in the future by the proposed WMSI system.

It appears that WMSI has either deliberately or out of ignorance suggested that closures to Apalachicola Bay oyster harvesting have been linked to sewage issues in the St. George Island business district, as a means of justifying a critical need. No evidence exists that the two are linked; and the swimming advisories due to bacteria counts on the beach side of the Island are just that; advisories and not closures.

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In fact, there has not been a single instance of Apalachicola Bay being closed to oyster harvesting due to Norovirus (the bacteria linked to human sewage) for over seven years, according to the detailed records and excellent monitoring system of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

We urge the Public Service Commission to hold public hearings on the WMSI application and *allow sufficient time for fact finding, public input and discussion.*

And we repeat: *there is no documented or anecdotal evidence that sewage problems from the St. George Island business district have harmed oysters in Apalachicola Bay or reduced the ability of our oystermen to work.*

In fact, we are concerned that the proposed WMSI system could do more harm than good to Apalachicola Bay and the oyster industry, by encouraging high density development.

Sincerely,

Ottice Amison
President
850 653 8340