

Commission Clerk  
Office of the Commission Clerk  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

12/30/2020

Re: Docket No. 20200226-SU

I am a property owner in Section 3, Township 42 South, Range 20 East. I object to the application for Wastewater Certificate in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC. My objections are based on 1. Data supporting Septic systems in Cape Haze a cause of pollution, 2. The low density on Cape Haze, 3. Qualification concerns of Environmental Utilities LLC, 4. Affordability.

Data Supporting Septic system contamination in Cape Haze:

I purchased our home in 2013, the septic system was inspected with no issues reported. We have a large lot with 27,443 square ft with 3400 square feet of buildings leaving plenty of space for a pollution free septic system. No studies showing septic contamination was done in Cape Haze per telephone conversation with Charlotte County Utilities Director Craig Rudy on 12/28/2020. Mr. Rudy referenced the contamination of the overall area as noted in the Charlotte County Sewer Master Plan.

The low density in Cape Haze:

The area designated in the Section, Township and Range above represents 247 properties. We live on Spaniards Road which has 73 properties of which 31 is empty lots (43%) 24 with permanent residents this includes the Cape Haze Club House (32%) and the 18 remaining properties are seasonal residents (25%). The density on my street is low, 43% vacant lots and 25% seasonally use property that has minimal environmental impact. The seasonal residents present during the winter months when the water table is much lower than the summer rainy months further reducing contamination potential.

Concerns of Environmental Utilities LLC:

I was surprised to receive the Notice of Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for Wastewater services by Environmental Utilities LLC rather than Charlotte County Utilities. I immediately called the number on the notice and spoke with a Jack Boyer the owner of Environmental Utilities LLC. I was informed that he lived on the Island and formed a Utility company. The phone used seemed to be his cell phone with background noise apparently from his living quarters. I asked the projected costs, damage to the local vegetation and financing. He stated that "a lot of grant money is available for the project and the first 50 owners that sign up get free hook up to the sewer". I am a skeptical individual, thinking this is a fly by night LLC. I performed a google search and the only result was a MapQuest of the Placida Post Office.

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What is the vetting process utilized for the State of Florida to assure the applicant has the experience, knowledge and financial resources to manage a project of this depth? What are the liabilities by the State for not providing alternate vendors and a competitive bidding process?

Affordability:

How does a homeowner know that the installation of sewer is a fair price from a competitive process? What are the costs to the homeowner? What provision will be made for payment over a specific time frame?

Conclusion:

The application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities LLC should be denied for all the above reasons. The homeowners do not have a choice in selecting a utility company rather this utility company is forcing a service on the homeowner with an open check book for himself.



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