

Antonia Hover

From: Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:10 PM
To: 'Roy Stokes'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226

Good Afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Stokes.

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20200226, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Thank you!

Toni Hover

*Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Phone: (850) 413-6467*

From: Roy Stokes <stokesrt@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:06 PM
To: Records Clerk<CLERK@PSC.State.FI.Us> <Records Clerk<CLERK@PSC.State.FI.Us>; mfriedman@deanmead.com
Subject: Docket #20200226

Commission Clerk
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public service Commission
240 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida

Re Docket No. 20200226-Su

Dear Commissioners,

As homeowners on Little Gasparilla Island, we are requesting you to reject the application by Environmental Utilities (EU) to install wastewater (sewers) to the properties listed in docket #20200226 in Charlotte County. Environmental Utilities is a start up company without the necessary experience and finances to build a multimillion dollar sewer system .They have given stakeholders no reliable idea of the cost other than comments like "maybe \$19,000 for Cape Haze, probably \$20,000 for the barrier islands, and maybe state and federal grants". These estimates were given at homeowner meetings by Mr. Boyer the owner, and are not based on company experience, nor thoroughly researched by the necessary experts. They could be entirely false.

We have questions of EU's capital, liquidity, and management skills. How many employees does EU have? How many projects of this size or ANY have they had experience with and successfully completed? It appears none. The fold over piece of paper with the "Notice of Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for Wastewater Service", was addressed to our son's home, not ours! It did not show any rates and charges. It was sent apparently on Dec. 18,2021, and we received it many days later. We were given thirty days to protest. There was a Christmas rush of mail, we're sure, but the main reason was, it was sent to the wrong address, our son's. Many of our island neighbors say they have not received notice and are only aware by word of mouth from those who did receive the notice,

Eu lists Continental Bank as their financial institution but the attached letter from them says " this letter is NOT a commitment to lend and is for discussion purposes only." Mr. Boyer, the applicant, also lists state and federal grants under financing but with no more "particularity" than that. Mr. Boyer, the applicant, said their is no provision being made to allow homeowners to make payments over time like other wastewater projects in Charlotte County. That means we are being treated unfairly and this would be financially devastating to many islanders.

Islanders are very concerned about a wastewater/sewer line UNDER the Intercoastal Waterway which could affect Lemon Bay and Gasparilla Sound. These are aquatic preserves and designated as Outstanding Florida Waterways .It is also an Environmental Protection Agency Gulf of Mexico Ecological Management Site, and a National Estaurine Preserve. With EU being an inexperienced company, we fear an environmental disaster could occur during construction, connection, or if leaks would happen. Please be aware that Little Gasparilla Island has NO paved roads, only sandy paths and lanes. We are concerned too because of the topography of our island and area, We have nesting eagles, ospreys, endangered tortoises and birds whose homes could be impacted by sewer pipes and lift stations. There are no designated north/south platted lanes, and all other property is private, which brings up the question of easements. There are/were many concerns regarding easements when Mr. Boyer installed his water system on the island.

You should be aware that public records show, that as owner of Little Gasparilla Water Utility, Mr. Boyer, the applicant and owner of Environmental Utilities, was charged and fined several thousand dollars by Charlotte County for illegal hookups to his water system. He as the owner of the company was not allowed to do this, he was not a plumber, didn't secure permits, and used the wrong pipes and equipment. They had to be redone. Although he was only charged with three, he stated to several homeowners and two Charlotte County Health Dept workers that he had installed 100!

With all these concerns, we wonder what will happen if this small, private for profit, start up company cannot complete the project. Mr, Boyer has said that Charlotte County will not be responsible! It appears then, that all the stakeholders will be left holding the bag! We have no records of Environmental Utilities ability or STABILITY! We sincerely ask you to consider these questions and to deny this certificate. If the project is necessary, then Charlotte County Utilities should be in charge,

Sincerely,
Roy and Kathleen Stokes
8892 Gulf Street
Little Gasparilla Island
Stokesrt@verizon.net

cc: Martin Friedman, Esquire
Dean Mead
420 S. Orange Ave,Suite 700
Orlando,Fl. 32801