

Paul Sarofim
9254 Little Gasparilla Island
Placida, FL 33946
January 10, 2021

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

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2021 JAN 19 PM 12: 29
COMMISSION
CLERK

Dear Commission Clerk:

My name is Paul Sarofim. I am a property owner on Little Gasparilla Island. My property is within the service area contained in the application from Environmental Utilities, LLC for central sewer. I have owned our property on Little Gasparilla Island for 10 years now. I am writing to **object** to application for original certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC per Docket No. 20200226-SU.

I have concerns about the construction, operation, maintenance, and cost of the wastewater system that is in the early planning stages with Charlotte County, Environmental Utilities LLC and the Public Service Commission. I understand that Little Gasparilla Island (LGI) and the surrounding areas are environmentally sensitive and would benefit from a wastewater system to curb the nutrient runoff from aging septic systems on the island. I have reviewed the comprehensive Sewer Master Plan that Charlotte County released in 2017. It does not appear at this time the Environmental Utilities has conducted any further investigation past what was provided in the sewer master plan and is now seeking an application to provide wastewater service.

Little Gasparilla Island only has about 60-80 full time residents on the island. The other homes are vacation homes and not inhabited on a regular basis with minimal seasonal usage. The project also does not include the two condominium complexes on the island, which have the highest concentration of residents. Given the unique nature of Little Gasparilla Island, there needs to be an extensive engineering study conducted on which type of sewer system will work best given the range of flow variations and extended time with minimal usage. The study should include an evaluation of the low-pressure system proposed, as well as the vacuum system mentioned in the master plan. Another viable alternative that should be considered is **Advance Treatment Units** which treat individual residential systems to a higher biological level than traditional septic systems. With the nature of the use of homes on Little Gasparilla Island, I foresee many challenges collecting

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and conveying the wastewater back to the mainland for treatment. If the system is not properly designed and maintained for the different flow conditions that will be experienced, it could create more environmental issues than we are currently experiencing today.

Environmental Utilities is now sending out a non-descript letter that had the appearance of junk mail on December 17th just before the holiday season, giving future customers 30 days to respond to the Public Service Commission regarding the application for wastewater service. With the USPS delays, many customers are just receiving their notices in the mail as the deadline is approaching. As future consumers, we have been asked to present our objections to a proposal for which we have no idea what the associated costs will be nor the type of system we will be paying for. All of which has been timed to take place during a tumultuous holiday season within a global pandemic. It should also be noted that Environmental Utilities has applied to the Public Service Commission without developing a plan for what the sewer system will entail, so we are being asked to agree with something without any details on what the sewer system will be, what impacts it will have to our property, and what the connection costs or rates will be in the future.

While the project to bring sewer services to the island has merit, Environmental Utilities is not the appropriate party to complete a project of this nature. This sewer system project should be taken on by Charlotte County to design, construct, and operate. If Charlotte County is interested in assistance on this project, the County should continue to seek experienced parties through a Request for Qualifications process to provide the proper sewer service to Little Gasparilla Island.

I object to Environmental Utilities for the reasons presented in this letter, plus the applicant's lack of experience as an owner/operator of a wastewater utility and the inadequate information regarding the applicant's financial strength. Therefore, I formally request that EU's Application for a Certificate to provide wastewater service to Little Gasparilla Island be denied.

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I would like to be informed of all meetings, notices, recommendations, information and final orders with regards to the wastewater system project affecting Cape Haze/Knight Island/Don Pedro/LGI.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Sarofim". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Paul Sarofim
9254 Little Gasparilla Island
Placida, FL 33946

Contact information:

Paul Sarofim
205 Fox Valley Dr
Longwood, FL 32779
psarofim@yahoo.com

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORIZATION AND INITIAL RATES AND CHARGES
FOR WASTEWATER SERVICE**

Docket No. 20200226-SU - Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC.

Notice is hereby given on the 17th day of December, 2020, pursuant to Section 367.045, Florida Statutes, and Section 25-30.030, Florida Administrative Code, of the Application for Original Wastewater Certificate in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC. The Certificate will authorize Environmental Utilities, LLC. to provide wastewater service in Sections 28, 29, 32 and 33, Township 41 South, Range 20 East, in Sections 3, 4, 10, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 27 in Township 42 South, Range 20 East, which consists of the barrier islands of Little Gasparilla Island, Don Pedro Island, and Knight Island, and in Sections 2, 3, and 11 in Township 42 South, Range 20 East, and Section 34 in Township 41 South, Range 20 East, which consists of Cape Haze on the mainland, all in Charlotte County. This legal description has been simplified and to obtain a copy of the exact legal description please contact Martin Friedman at 407-310-2077 or mfriedman@deanmead.com.

Any objections to the Application must be made in writing and filed with the Commission Clerk, Office of Commission Clerk, Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, no later than 30 days from the date of this Notice, with a copy to Martin S. Friedman, Esquire, Dean Mead, 420 S. Orange Ave., Suite 700, Orlando, Florida 32801. The objection must state the grounds for the objection with particularity.

Environmental Utilities, LLC.
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