

Lisa Smith

From: Hannah Barker
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 9:07 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket Correspondence
Attachments: FW Docket #20200226-SU; Docket # 20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU; Docket # 20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU ; sewer system for little gasparilla island.; Docket # 20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU

Good morning,

Please place the attached emails in Docket No. 20200226.

Hannah E. Barker
Executive Assistant to Commissioner Clark
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6004

Lisa Smith

From: Tyler Erickson <Tyler@midlandinfosys.com>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:43 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: FW: Docket #20200226-SU

As a homeowner on the island please deny EU's application for wastewater service

The main reason is because EU is not a contractor that has ever won a bid to install sewer anywhere. Palm Island also called Don Pedro-Knight Island is a barrier Island with no bridge access, That would make it even more complicated for a company who has no experience.

There are also concerns about EU's owner. Has anyone done a background check?

Thanks!

Tyler Erickson
Cell: 612-719-6678
111 N Gulf Blvd and 251 Bocilla Drive

Lisa Smith

From: Bryan D & Debra S Fredrick <bdfredrick@embarqmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:08 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket # 20200226-SU

I, Bryan D Fredrick own the home at 111 S Gulf Blvd, Placida, FL, on Don Pedro Island. I understand that you will be making a decision regarding possible approval for a private sewer system on our Island, by "Environmental Utility". I STRONGLY advise you to DENY the Application.

We all have our septic systems inspected and approved periodically, and have repairs/improvements done as needed - If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

There is no evidence that our properly functioning septic systems are detrimental to our surrounding waters. We live here - we swim. fish and boat in our surrounding waters. I do believe that any degradation of our waters is primarily caused by high-nutrient discharges from Lake Okeechobee.

It is my understanding that "Environmental Utility" is trying to convince you that we have an environmental emergency due to our polluting septic systems, so cannot wait to have Charlotte County install any central sewer system. This reasoning is fallacious.

"Environmental Utility" has no prior experience in installing or operating a central sewer system.

I understand that "Environmental Utility" is a private, FOR PROFIT business. I do not want to let inexperienced people to become multi-millionaires at my expense. I know that we are in the queue for Charlotte County to install a central sewer system here on Don Pedro Island. Why can't we wait for an experienced, non-profit entity handle our sewage ?? We would pay their fees as part of our property taxes, like most Floridians.

In conclusion, PLEASE DENY "Environmental Utility's" application for our wastewater service.

Thank you - Bryan D Fredrick bdfredrick@embarqmail.com 111 S Gulf Blvd, Don Pedro Island

Lisa Smith

From: Laurie Barclay <it000016@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:55 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

From Laurie Barclay, MD, property owner on Don Pedro Island (Colony Don Pedro unit #8; 50 S Gulf Blvd.)

I hereby formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service, based on the arguments in opposition to the proposed central sewer as listed below.

As a property owner on Don Pedro Island for more than 30 years, I firmly believe that it is a unique treasure, reflecting unspoiled Florida at its finest. It is a pristine environment and beautiful, idyllic location bringing much needed peace and restoration to our hectic, troubled world.

In these 30 years, I have never had issues with my current septic system, nor has any water quality testing indicated a need for sewer. The proposed central sewer would be extremely disruptive to our environment and way of life. The noise and disturbance of sand and soil by installing the proposed system would be devastating to wildlife, human residents and visitors, and the natural beauty of our beloved island. Installing and maintaining a sewer system may destroy the natural habitat and interfere with the gopher tortoise and other endangered native species.

Sewage spill in the Intracoastal could be devastating to fish and sea turtles, as well as to human life by encouraging red tide and potential infection from contact with coliform bacteria in the water: The risk of a central sewer leak with a subaqueous crossing exceeds the risk of one or more septic systems developing leaks.

I am also extremely concerned regarding the proposed costs of wastewater service. I rent out my property when possible and enjoy it myself the rest of the time. As a retired senior, the costs of island living are substantial already, and the proposed system would inflict an unnecessary financial burden of upfront and ongoing costs.

The extent of this burden is uncertain, with estimated connection fees ranging from \$13K to \$20K; the requirement of installing an electrical panel at my expense; the need to buy and maintain a generator to avoid sewage back-up during power outages; removal of trees, landscaping and hardscaping around the septic area at my expense; and monthly fees in the range of \$200, or approximately twice the amount paid on the nearby mainland for water and wastewater combined, and far exceeding my current sewage-related expenses.

As the grinder pump has a limited capacity of 60 gallons, and will be unable to function for long if there is a power outage, each property would need a generator to keep the system running and avoid sewage back-up. Again, more unnecessary expense, inconvenience, noise, storage, and potential fire and environmental hazard of storing gas.

To gain access to crush and fill the septic tank, landscaping, trees and structures around the septic area would have to be cleared at my expense, which would disrupt the environment and wildlife, disfigure my property, and take away useable outdoor recreational and parking space.

In any event, these are additional expenses I cannot afford, at no benefit whatsoever to me, my renters, or my neighbors. In fact, the only beneficiary of the proposed sewer system is EU itself. Even worse, there is no pay-over-time plan, so that a loan (and associated interest and negative impact on credit rating) could be needed to cover connection cost.

The pandemic has created enough economic and other disruption to our way of life, and imposing the expenses of a sewer system could put me over the edge of having to give up island living that I so dearly love.

No renters want to have their time away spoiled by sewer system installation, with the associated noise, inconvenience, and increased local and barge traffic, nor do I. Increased traffic, and delays waiting to get on the barge to access or leave the island could continue for years and would further detract from the joys and peace of island living. The proposed system would therefore negatively impact Florida tourism and hospitality industries on the island and nearby mainland.

In addition, I view the EU's proposal for a sewer system as offensive, as it is an infringement of my personal rights and my rights as a property owner. The septic system in current use works perfectly well, and I cannot understand why I should be forced to change it, as said change would be harmful to me for reasons expressed herein.

Unfortunately, however, should the sewer system proposal be approved, connection would be mandatory. Charlotte County regulations require all homes to connect to central water and wastewater within 1 year of availability, with no grandfathering of septic systems, regardless of age or condition.

As EU has claimed ownership of a utility easement going from the sewer equipment near the house to the connection in the road, without compensation to homeowners, their proposed system would lower property values at no benefit to us.

The proposed sewer system has no accountability, as EU is not a contractor that has won a bid to install the sewer, and there is no "contract," no single point of general oversight, no performance bond required, and no single point of recourse for homeowners should there be cost overruns or project failure. Furthermore, EU has not addressed how the sewer would be serviced if it fails during storms, which are frequent on tropical islands.

Another concern of island living is the corrosive effect of salt air on mechanical and electrical equipment, resulting in the need for frequent replacement of sewer components, again at the expense of the homeowner.

Based on the arguments above, I hereby formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service. These arguments include, but are not limited to, negative impacts on the environment, island living, Florida tourism and hospitality industries, property rights, and homeowner expenses. Please do not destroy our beautiful island and the oasis of tranquility it provides.

Sincerely,

Laurie Barclay, MD

lt000016@hotmail.com

Lisa Smith

From: Stevenson <webstevenson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 2:56 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Sean Stevenson
9700 Little Gasparilla Island
Placida, FL 33946
webstevenson@gmail.com

January 21, 2022

Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket #20200226-SU

Commissioners of the Public Service Commission:

I am a property owner at 9700 Little Gasparilla Island which is a property within the service area of the proposed central sewer system, Docket #20200226-SU.

I formally object and request that PSC deny Environment Utilities (EU) application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

The homes, on average, do not have heavy usage. Half of them are empty at any given time and all very easily managed with a properly maintained septic. A sewer system is a terrible 'solution' to a misdiagnosed problem.

Thank you,

Sean Stevenson
9700 Little Gasparilla Island, Placida FL 33946

Lisa Smith

From: KBL Stevenson <stevensonkorrie@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 2:50 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Korrie Stevenson
9700 Little Gasparilla Island
Placida, FL 33946
stevensonkorrie@gmail.com

January 21, 2022

Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket #20200226-SU

Commissioners of the Public Service Commission:

I am a property owner at 9700 Little Gasparilla Island which is a property within the service area of the proposed central sewer system, Docket #20200226-SU.

I formally object and request that PSC deny Environment Utilities (EU) application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

The simplistic beauty of LGI is that it is not a resort, filled with water sports or hotel events planned by an Activities Director nor is it a subdivision in the middle of a busy city. Instead, Little Gasparilla Island is a barrier island with no bridge to access it, free from restaurants, public roads, stores, business, etc. It is an authentic island and the owners are those who continue to help it continue in this quiet and tranquil atmosphere. Like any community we have responsible neighbors and irresponsible but thankfully the latter are the few. Responsible owners maintain their septic tanks by putting in enzymes monthly, not allowing large numbers of people in their homes for their size septic tank and getting it pumped out at appropriate times. *Those who don't do these things are the cause for any issues.*

The simplest, most environmentally healthy solution is to have owners of septic tanks report to the state of Florida every 3-5 years, dependent upon the size of tank, with a statement from a septic tank company that it is running properly and does not need a pump out or providing the recent date that it has been pumped out.

A generator-required grinder pump "sewer" is a stunningly environmentally invasive and outrageously expensive solution to a misdiagnosed problem.

Our family rented on LGI for 13 years, enjoying wonderful vacations. We recently purchased a darling "fishing shack" home in September of 2020 that had never been owned by another family since it was built in 1974, which

was part of its charm. It has a brand new septic system which we take incredible care of after educating ourselves about how to do so. We renovated the home, which is a feat in itself on the island with no bridges, and we are thrilled to own a piece of paradise in our home state of Florida. We have been raised in Florida and have raised our own family. To be presented with this unbelievable overreach is deeply offensive to not only us, our neighbors, our island but also to the citizens of our state. Please do not allow those in this, and for financial profit only, destroy a pristine piece of our beautiful state.

I realize that you have received an enormous amount of letters asking you to deny and for far more reasons than what I have presented above and thus I will not belabor all of it. It is clear that the information is there for the case to deny their request.

Thank you for your attention to such a forever after impacting matter,

Korrie Stevenson
9700 Little Gasparilla Island, Placida FL 33946

Lisa Smith

From: jim lemanski <jimarvilla@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 12:50 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: sewer system for little gasparilla island.

good afternoon. i am writing to voice an objection to the proposed system. there has not been enough studies done on the benefit of this system. like the mandatory water hook-up, the only person that will gain is Mr. Boyer. the cost to us home owners is extreme. couple that with home owners being responsible for the power to the grinding pump incase of a power failure is stupid. the purposed monthly fee of 179.00 dollars plus is twice the amount people pay on the mainland in charoltte county. we have owned this home for 32 years. it is a second home, which means NO home stead tax brakes . a septic tank failure on the island would be horrible . what about a sewer system failure. these have dumped millions of sewerage waste into our waterways, by most counties on the coast or rivers. **WE STRONGLY OBJECT TO THIS PROJECT.** mr. boyer has told me ,in person, these projects are his retirement program...off the backe of home owners. thank for your time....jim&arvilla lemanski 8620 marsh street, little gasparilla island,placida florida. my e mail is jimarvilla@gmail.com

Lisa Smith

From: JENNIFER ELLWOOD <jen.e@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 12:46 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: Docket # 20200226-SU

Dear Commissioner Clark,

My name is Jennifer Ellwood and I own the property on Palm Island at 151 North Gulf Blvd. I am formally requesting the PSC to deny the EU's application for wastewater services.

My property has probably the smallest house on the island. I pay approximately \$5,000 a year in property taxes which is difficult to come up with as I am a social worker and my husband is not working. The house is a small, 2 bedroom vacation house for us, we are there about 2 months a year. This house has been in my family for about 47 years. My parents bought it when I was 12 years old and I have many fond memories of summers there.

I have heard different estimates of costs to homeowners, one was \$20,000 per unit and another was \$13,221 per unit with an average residential bill at \$178.78 per month. This is simply cost prohibitive for me. There may be other expenses involved including installing a separate electrical panel by an electrician, the cost of clearing trees from the septic area for removal, and the possibility of needing to purchase a generator in the event of a power outage. I believe county should be covering the costs for this project.

Please consider my situation and concerns as you make this important decision.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Ellwood
jen.e@comcast.net

Lisa Smith

From: Fred Brown <fredwbrown@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 12:15 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Commissioner Clark:

As an owner of three properties on Don Pedro/Palm Island I am requesting the PSC deny the EU application for wastewater service.

I cannot believe that this is even being considered given that our current septic system has worked great over the years and currently we have no monthly fees. I am aware of issues where (St. Petersburg) sewer systems will back up and sewage will go in the roads and the Gulf. I have never heard of any issues with septic spillage for the over 35 years we have enjoyed Palm Island.

It appears to me that certain people are pursuing this project only for profit at the expense of exploiting all the residences of Don Pedro/Palm Island with unnecessary hook up charges and monthly fees. I do not see how anyone on the Commission would even consider adding to the financial burden for costs to replace something that is working fine unless they too are receiving a kick-back. Even considering awarding this project to Mr. Boyer, who is inexperienced in sewer, and can provide no actual costs or monthly fees for this is inconceivable at best. Just because the resort's septic is aging and needs to be replaced, let them update and replace their own. All the residents on Don Pedro should not have to pay. Please represent the people of Don Pedro Island and don't make people pay for something that is not needed to represent the financial benefit of a few.

Thank you

Fred & Susan Brown
fredwbrown@hotmail.com
sjbday@hotmail.com