

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 11:11 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 20200226
Attachments: Docket #20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU; Fw Docket# 20200226-SU; Docket no. 20200226-SU

Please place the attached in Docket No. 20200226.

Thank you!

Lisa Smith

From: Vicki Johnson <srbvicki@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 10:57 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Commissioner Passidomo,

I am a property owner on Palm Island, specifically at 60 S Gulf Blvd. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed central sewer project. I am formally requesting that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service. It appears this new request is only to the benefit of an uncertain and unproven business. The proposed project has major implications and costs to the environment and residents.

Please see my major concerns below:

1. As a homeowner, I have major concerns about mandatory hookup requirements. We are not willing or able to pay extraordinary costs to convert to a new system when there is nothing wrong with our current septic that we maintain.
2. The proposed monthly residential cost for service is reported to be extremely high and not acceptable. The rates being shared are above and beyond current rates on the mainland and would be a totally new monthly expense for Palm Island homeowners.
3. The proposed system reliability and maintenance is unproven. The applicant has not demonstrated any technical expertise with this type of project nor do they have a proven record that they can safely and reliably service the proposed system.
4. The risk to the environment due to this project or future system failure is much greater and more adverse than the current private property septic system. You cannot wait for a catastrophe to occur for this fact to be proven. One storm can cause much more damage to a central sewer system than a residential septic tank.

I urge you to take these concerns into consideration and deny the EU's application for wastewater service. Thanks in advance for doing what is right for the residents of Palm Island.

Respectfully,
Vicki Johnson
60 S Gulf Blvd, Palm Island, FL
srbvicki@gmail.com / [\(850\) 619-0505](tel:(850)619-0505)

Lisa Smith

From: Joan Der <joan.der7@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 10:50 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Cc: Sally And dick Johnson
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

I am Joan Der and I live with my husband at 171 S. gulf Blvd. on DPI. I am formally requesting that the **PSC DENY EU's** application for wastewater service.

I wish to have Charlotte County provide the municipal wastewater service accorded other taxpayers, not abdicate to a novice, financially unstable private company like EU.

1. **NEED FOR SERVICE** (environmental impacts, development concerns) I take care of my septic system and other must do the same, given the frequency of septic cleanout trucks I see on the ferry. Palm Island Resort has it's own waste treatment system so they should not be allowed to drag us into a contract. Don Pedro and Knight Islands are low-density residences. There aren't any buildings with owners living above each other. There is no commercial activity other than the Resort with its own sewer. We are a gentle, peaceful island already focused on conservancy. Lake Okeechobee releases are more problematic for water than our tiny island. A leak of wastewater under the inter coastal is riskier than perhaps a few residential leaks. **DENY EU.**
2. **FINANCIAL ABILITY** of the applicant. I met a former DPI resident at the ferry and I updated him on the upcoming sewer decision. When he found out Jack Boyer was behind the effort, he recounted troubles. When working for Jack, he resorted to receiving cash-only payment. The financial attachment to the PSC application is a blank tax return. No financial info is shown. Can EU be trusted with millions? Jack's conversations with other islanders indicate EU wants to maximize any charges possible. Can EU finance a project to completion? Do we deserve exorbitant charges to line EU pockets? **DENY EU.**
3. **TECHNICAL EXPERTISE** of the applicant My friend lived through the treated water distribution to Little Gasparilla Island. She had green bathtub water. The installation flooded her septic tank. She had to move out for a month. She repeatedly called Boyer and NEVER got a response. She has despises Boyer to this day. If treated water is handled in this reckless manner, what mishandling will happen with wastewater? Do contractors understand the difficulties of bringing equipment and workers over on a ferry? Will they observe the weight limits on our one-lane bridge? Who will choose these specialized contractors since EU has few employees? Does EU have the expertise to pick better contractors than they did for treated water for Little Gasparilla? They don't have my trust. **HURRY and DENY EU**
4. **Fair and reasonable rates** EU has already tried to apply as a private utility without providing rates. EU will charge the maximum. Why should I be charged an exorbitant premium for a complex project shrouded with doubtful design, installation and operation. We already fare unfavorably to other Charlotte County taxpayers in many respects for services.

I am concerned about the need to handle the waste processing at each house with the individual tank capacity at 60 gallons. Each house is projected to need 190 gallons per day in the application. It has been suggested that we will need an upgrade to our electric panel. But what worries me is need

of a generator and propane to prepare for the frequent and/or unexpected electrical outages. This would make us riskier for fires. Can our Fire Department team on the island handle 2-3 fires that could occur during a short outage and when there are days of outage caused by severe wind?

I am not saying sewers are never a good idea. But there is not a need now. And if a sewer is in our future, please have Charlotte County provide the municipal service at a fair rate afforded other county residents. Not a novice, charging exorbitant fees for inferior or checkered services.

Would you trust your waste system to EU? Please Deny EU.

Joan Der. Joan.der7@gmail.com

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Joan Der

joan.der7@gmail.com

Cell phone in U.S. 1 630 217-7886

Lisa Smith

From: Bruce and Becky Rougraff <brougraff@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 10:46 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Fw: Docket# 20200226-SU

On Monday, January 24, 2022, 9:56 AM, Bruce and Becky Rougraff <brougraff@aol.com> wrote:

I am writing to you regarding the new sewer proposal for Palm Island. I am not sure why this proposal has come into existence, as I don't know of any homeowner on Palm Island who is unhappy with our current situation. Further, I don't know of any homeowner who has requested that we change to sewers on the island. I am gravely concerned about the damage this will do to our beautiful island. Further I am extremely

Concerned about the expense of this project and how members of our community will pay for it. Skyrocketing property taxes already make living in Florida much more difficult than it used to be. And other issues/expenses arising with having a home on a barrier island make it a very expensive place to live. Adding a gigantic sewer project to this seems unnecessary and financially catastrophic for many of us. We are not a super wealthy island like many barrier islands in Florida. We are a quiet island that has kept things low key. We have done a decent job of keeping the big money out, and have protected ourselves and our wildlife from much of the craziness going on these days in Florida. If there is concern about the age of our septic tanks, and protecting our environment, a program is easily established ensuring that we have our tanks maintained and checked on a regular basis. We are all more than willing to do this to protect our beautiful island!!!!

Because the costs and reasons for this monster project have not been laid out to us, this feels like it's being rammed down our throats. Typical government project. People have no say anymore!

For all of these reasons, we humbly request that you shelf this project, please! We don't want it!

Bruce and Rebecca Rougraff
280 North Gulf Blvd.
Palm Island, Placida Florida

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

Lisa Smith

From: Wayne H <wharriso48@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 10:32 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket no. 20200226-SU

My name is Wayne Harrison and my wife and I own property located on Palm Island more specifically 16 Lemon Bay Lane, Placida, FL 33946.

I am formally requesting that the PSC deny the request from EU as identified in the subject matter herein. My objections are as follows:

- **Uncertain Cost-all to be paid by the land owner**
 - Hook-up fees have not been set, only estimated and have varied from 20k to 14k with no provision to pay this over time.
 - Monthly fees for this service is estimated to be twice the average cost paid on the mainland of which includes water
 - Fees required for electrical upgrades to my home for system pumps required by EU.
 - Cost associated to pump, fill existing septic systems and clear the area of vegetation and trees
- Damage to landscaping and trees around the home for access by EU and it appears an easement would be granted without compensation over my property from the house tie-in to main line
- According to Charlotte County regulations, it will require connection within one year of availability, even though your existing septic system is operational. So this is mandatory!
- Access to Palm Island is by car ferry. I feel that this single point of ingress/egress will be greatly impacted by this project causing more delays and serious traffic issues.
- From what I understand, this project requires a grinder pump which only has a capacity of 60 gallons. In the event of a power outage, once this capacity is met, will result in overflows. Are we required to have a generator back up to avoid this problem??
- A sewer line will be laid under the ICW and my concern is any major or minor breach in that line will be devastating to the environment.
- I am very concerned for construction oversight. Again, as I understand this project, there is no single point of recourse for cost or failure and no performance bond is being required. I have no confidence in the technical expertise of this contractor to complete this project.
- I also believe that there has never been any water quality testing in our area to justify the need for a central sewer system which should have been the first type of testing completed

Again, I am asking that this be denied. Palm Island is almost completely developed and the immediate need for this project is unwarranted and extremely costly to each landowner on the island.

Thank you.

Wayne D. Harrison
1585 Bougainvillea Way S.
Bartow, FL 33830
863-512-1600 wharriso48@gmail.com