

Antonia Hover

From: Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 3:44 PM
To: 'Jtillis3'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Opposition to Docket #20200226-SU

Good Afternoon, John D. Tillis.

We will be placing the 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: Jtillis3 <jtillis3@tampabay.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 3:27 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Cc: John Tillis <jtillis3@tampabay.rr.com>
Subject: Opposition to Docket #20200226-SU

Commissioner

I am a generational homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island and I am writing to you today in opposition to the EU's proposed central sewer.

The EU has not been clear, or forthcoming, with the connection fee for each residence to this proposed new system. The estimated cost of over \$13,000 to the initial approximation of \$20,000 per unit is certainly a substantial amount of money for any household to pay lump sum. I have not yet seen an itemized statement explaining how these numbers have come to be. Having previous experience with repairs and construction cost with the unique dynamics of island living, delays and fees seem to have a way of multiplying once a project gets under way. The before mentioned numbers are given as estimated cost, I am uncomfortable with not having a bottom line.

The water cost on Little Gasparilla Island are definitively higher than mainland residences. With a flat rate of \$70 per month, whether the house is occupied or not, plus an increased rate per gallon water bills are sometimes several hundred dollars due to billing being on a quarterly basis. Where is the guarantee that the sewage rates would be affordable? The EU will certainly increase the county's sewage rate to cover their fees for profit. Where is the agency to govern and regulate costs passed on to the homeowners?

Several homes on our LGI street have recently purchased and had professionally installed and inspected new septic systems. These systems range in age from 2-6 years old. They are being well maintained and regularly inspected as instructed by the county. The penalization for these homes to be forced into connecting to a sewage system they didn't ask for is beyond absurd. The time, scheduling, and cost incurred to upgrade the septic systems shows that these homeowners are will to carry the burden of environmental responsibility individually without a private company forcing their hands to connect to a sewage system without a clear cut maintenance plan or outline in place to handle emergency failures.

Continuing with the concerns to the environment, the destruction to the roadways and easements on our private island will wreak havoc not only to transportation, but the already existing fragile water lines run to our homes. Several water lines, installed by EU, have not been installed to regulation standards, with many being visible on the surface of the ground and repeatedly driven over by our choice of transportation, golf carts, daily. The frequent fracture of water lines or damaged connectors causes the immediate need for boil water notices that are poorly communicated. The majority of the residences are not full-time dwellings, with many of the homes being vacation rentals. The guests vacationing on the island are rarely aware that there has been a boil water notice issued due to poor communication from the EU owner and staff.

These are just a few of the reasons I object to the certification for this proposed sewer. Please reject this application and allow us as homeowners the privilege of enjoying our island as it is without any further intrusion or damage to its land and natural beauty.

Respectfully,
John D. Tillis
jtillis3@tampabay.rr.com