

Antonia Hover

From: Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 8:41 AM
To: 'Jeffrey Bashore'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Good Morning, Jeff and Melissa Bashore.

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: Jeffrey Bashore <jeffreybashore@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 10:02 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Cc: Mel <melbashore@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Public Service Commissioners,

Thank you all for providing an opportunity for island residents to share their input about this incredibly impactful proposed project that would have a profound impact on the environment and our homes. Commissioner Clark - I personally appreciate that you took the time to acknowledge our family's written response.

You have a difficult decision on your hands. We fully recognize the desire and public interest in connecting the barrier islands to an effective sewer system. We are strong advocates for clean water and leaving a thriving ecosystem behind for our children.

I plead with you to recognize that the current application is so deeply flawed that it will only cause significantly greater environmental damage while also financially devastating island residents and ripping up our unspoiled ecological dreamland.

The proposed low pressure sewer system will only greatly exacerbate the problems that exist today with private septic systems. With multiple points of failure in the system at every home we are merely one storm and an extended power outage away from seeing massive water pollution after millions of dollars of taxpayer dollars are completely wasted.

As any island resident will tell you, the elements on the barrier islands are severe. They take a rapid, hard toll on everything, particularly electrical components. The concept of leaving solid waste behind in tanks and depending on hundreds to thousands of properly operating electric pumps to siphon off liquid waste is so broken at it's core that it is hard imagine that a knowledgeable, rational person could even propose it as a viable solution.

The many deeply flawed elements of the proposed system design are terrible enough that they should never see the time of day in a hearing in front of you. That is before you begin to consider that the applicant, Mr. Boyer, has the exact same amount of experience as me and most other island residents when it comes to installing and maintaining a large scale sewer system - absolutely zero. He not only lacks the experience but he also lacks the answers to critical questions about the planning, costs and logistics related to the massive infrastructure project.

The water utility that Mr. Boyer operates charges some of the highest rates in the state, has frequent outages, fails to properly distribute boil water notices and is considered unreliable by those in his service area. He lacks the experience and capital to make this project a success. It is a foregone conclusion that if he is granted the sewer permit that it will be a devastating outcome.

In closing, we personally appeal to you as a parents and environmental enthusiasts. Like our neighbors, we have a deep love for preserving some of our most pristine, unspoiled environmental treasures in Florida. We want to do our best to leave our barrier islands in better condition than we found them for future generations. The proposed project would permanently impact our islands and leave the future for our homes and neighbors in great uncertainty. That is a huge price to pay for a solution that would not have a chance of solving the stated problem even under the best of circumstances and outcomes.

Regards,
Jeff and Melissa Bashore
8738 Marsh Street
Placida, FL 33946

(484) 769-4870

On Mar 15, 2022, at 1:47 PM, Office of Commissioner Clark
<Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us> wrote:

Dear Mr. and Ms. Bashore,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, by Environmental Utilities, LLC- Docket No. 20200226. I know how concerning it can be when presented with a possible change regarding utilities.

I have had the opportunity to hear from many of you over the past few months, both in person at our service hearings, and through the countless emails I have received. I want to stress how valuable the customer perspective is to me. Tomorrow the parties in this case will be filing briefs, laying out their arguments, and we are scheduled to make a decision the morning of Tuesday, May 3rd at our monthly Agenda Conference. If you would like to watch the Agenda Conference you may go to FloridaPSC.com, where it will be live streamed.

Thank you, again, for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeff Bashore <jeffreybashore@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 3:11 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Cc: Mel <melbashore@gmail.com>
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Jeffrey & Melissa Bashore
8738 Marsh Street
Placida, FL 33946
Jeffreybashore@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 8738 Marsh Street on 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.

While I feel strongly that the barrier islands and low lying inland areas of the state should be swiftly migrated to a sewer system to protect our fragile ecosystem, I am concerned that the current proposal is deeply flawed.

Turning a project of this magnitude over to an LLC that has zero experience with installing or operating a sewer system is unacceptable. Environment Utilities lacks both the experience as well as the capital to take responsibility for the proposed massive undertaking that will impact some of the most delicate, unspoiled areas of the SW Florida coast. The proposed solution leaves many critical questions unanswered about right-of-way access and how the many points of failure involved with a 'low pressure' sewer system would be effectively managed in the harsh climate presented on the barrier islands.

Charlotte County should be held responsible to implement and manage the project directly. It is clear that they are trying to find any bidder to insulate them from the obligations of managing this important work. Turning this over to an inexperienced, under-capitalized, for-profit LLC with the county maintaining no accountability for the outcome is not the right move for the environment, property owners in the affected areas or the citizens and visitors of Florida at large.

Regards,
Jeff and Melissa Bashore