

**Charlie Smith**

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**From:** Betty Leland  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 7:30 AM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032  
**Attachments:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Docket NO 20240032-SU - 40 Kettle Harbor, Palcida FL 33946 (Palm Island/Don Pedro/Knights Island); FW: Docket #20240032-SU objection to application for certificate to provide wastewater service by Environmental Utilities LLC; Docket 20240032-SU; Fw: REQUEST FOR WASTEWATER SERVICE

Good Morning:

Please place this email in Docket #20240032.

Thanks.

Betty A. Leland, Executive Assistant to  
Commissioner Art Graham  
Florida Public Service Commission  
[bleland@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:bleland@psc.state.fl.us)  
(850) 413-6024

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** RaeAnne Brenneise <rabrenneise@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 14, 2024 2:20 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU  
**Attachments:** To whom it may concern 2024.pdf

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Thank you for your time.

To whom it may concern,

Once again, My name is RaeAnne Brenneise. My Husband Paul and I have resided at 47 Bocilla Dr. on Knight Island for 11 years. Since we moved here in 2013, we have had an aerobic system, of which we have had no issues at all. We report to the health dept 2x a year with no issues ever, year after year.

My question is why? Why are we continually having to write letters to defend what happens on our property from one individual who has never paid our taxes, our insurance or even been on our property. One individual who has no experience and no education on the subject of sewers and truly only sees dollars signs.

On September of 2022, we had a devastating hurricane hit Florida. The worst to hit our area, the islands were in shambles. For weeks there was no power, no communication. Our island families lost roofs, siding, windows, trees were down, power lines were severed. To date there are still far too many people not back in their homes due to insurances not paying, taking too long to pay and the amount of contactors unable to keep up. People have used up their resources just to keep surviving. Food prices higher than ever, rent is outrageous, insurances have doubled, mortgage's have increased. While still trying to recover families are still going into a deficit.

The last time we were approached with this was after Covid which also finically crippled many people, some were not able to recover.

Once again this comes up. This would all be out of pocket expense to the property owner, nothing would benefit any of us only one individual who would only reap benefits from our struggle. This would not only be the enormous one time payment of \$20000 to install, but a financial struggle every month of an extra 150-200 dollars, not to mention the expense of a generator to install and maintain and all the other "little hidden fees."

This is not to improve OUR lives this is to only benefit the greed of one person who forged a plan to pad his pockets off the backs of the families still trying to put their lives and homes back together. We had a cat 4 and our septics did not fail us and we hope you won't either.

We ask that you stand with our Island families who do not want this, do not need this and are so incredibly tired of fighting this person who keeps encroaching his greed unto our homes, our properties and our lives by once again saying NO TO JACK BOYER!

Thank you for your time.

Paul and RaeAnne Brenneise

47 Bocilla Dr.

Placida, Fl 33946

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Iris Grioli <igrio@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 14, 2024 10:35 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; mfrdiedman@deanmead.com  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** Docket NO 20240032-SU - 40 Kettle Harbor, Placida FL 33946 (Palm Island/Don Pedro/Knights Island)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To Whom this may concern,

I Iris E Grioli, owner of 40 Kettle Harbor Placida, FL 33946. On the 3rd Day of April, 2024 I received a memo docket no 20240032-SU Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Enviornment Utilities, LLC. I am asking that this application be denied for the following reasons.

1. There is no need for a wastewater system as the existing septic systems are functioning properly with no evidence of any negative environmental impact. This is supported by the abundance of natural species inhabiting the island including a significant breeding population of endangered species. Such as the Gopher tortuous
2. A massive construction project such as would be required to install a wastewater system on the island would significantly and negatively impact the indigenous wildlife including the displacement of inhabitation destruction of endangered species. Such as Gohper tordoues
3. Forcing citizens to support a PRIVATE venture that they do not need would cause undue harm and financial burden in perpetuity and would be an abuse of governmental authority.
4. Constructing a wastewater pipeline connecting the island to the mainland would cause significantly irreparable disturbance to the wildlife in the intercoastal waterway.
5. The entirety of this proposal serves to enrich private investors by providing a service that the residents it serves do not want or need.
6. There have not been sufficient measures or safeguards established to provide that the residents and citizens, will not be subject to undue financial harm resulting from supporting the operational cost of maintaining the waste water system.

Should you have any questions please reach out to me directly at 201-681-1207

Regards,

Iris E Grioli, MA  
201-681-1207

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** bob@rowemitchell.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 13, 2024 4:47 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** FW: Docket #20240032-SU objection to application for certificate to provide wastewater service by Environmental Utilities LLC  
**Attachments:** objection to wastewater utility application Public Service Commission.docx

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Dear Clerk and Commissioners.

See attached letter

Thank You

Robert Mitchell

Robert & Brenda Mitchell  
3708 East Forest Lake Drive  
Sarasota, FL 34233

8304 Lil Gasparilla Island  
Email bm1962srq@gmail.com

March 13, 2024

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

Re; Docket # 20240032-SU

Dear Commissioner;

My wife and I have been property owners on Lil Gasparilla, Island since 2000.

We are writing to express our objections to the Environmental Utilities, L.L.C. application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County, specifically the bridgeless barrier islands of Lil Gasparilla, Don Pedro and Knight Island.

Our objections to the application are as follows.

- We do not feel there is a need for a central sanitary sewer on the above barrier islands. To our knowledge there is no general substantiated environmental issue with the existing private septic systems on the 3 barrier islands for single family residences. Furthermore, if there were drastic environmental issues with the existing septic systems why is there no outcry from the state DEP or Charlotte County Health Department?

Re; Docket # 20240032-SU

- We do not know a neighbor or island resident who has requested central sewer service on the noted barrier islands.
- We are very concerned about the financial and organizational stability of Environmental Utilities in the undertaking of such a project. The for-profit utility has demonstrated a profit first attitude with many people on Lil Gasparilla Island over their water service connection demands. Water service that many island residents did not want. Does this sound familiar to objections voiced by islanders during the last application for certificate to provide wastewater service from this same utility and the current sentiment of the islanders? We certainly think so!
- This mom-and-pop run utility lacks the structural/organizational stability and size to respond to major problems that will occur in the operation of a vital system like wastewater disposal. The utility work conducted by Environmental Utilities I have witnessed on the island was like the wild west. FYI I was a Florida Certified General Contractor (1985-2021) that worked with many large site development subs and Utility Contractors and what I witnessed on the Island was never done on our jobsites!
- The rates the utility charges for water are absurdly high based on the small economy of scale of the customer base, the enormous cost for a wastewater project in our current inflationary economic environment will be staggering. Correspondingly the rates charged to a customer will be unaffordable to many.

In these challenging economic times of historic inflation, the last thing we single family homeowners need is another huge expense for a wastewater utility that WE DO NOT WANT ! We islanders just incurred huge expense (emotional/economical) putting our homes and island back together after hurricanes Ian 2022 and Idalia 2023, we cannot afford this wastewater utility and its sky-high costs.

We implore you to see through Environmental Utilities for profit motives and DENY their application for certificate to provide wastewater services.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Mitchell

Brenda S. Mitchell



## Charlie Smith

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**From:** William O'Connell <bohaus@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 13, 2024 7:53 AM  
**To:** ClerkoftheCommissionclerk@psc.state.fl.us  
**Cc:** Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa  
**Subject:** Docket 20240032-SU

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We do not need a sewer system. We will all re write the letter below to express our opposition. We have a great community on LGI and only strengthened by hardships such as Hurricane Ian.

This letter expresses the strong opposition of many LGI residents to the proposed mandatory connection to a new sewer system on our barrier island. We believe this project is unnecessary, financially burdensome, and raises significant environmental concerns.

### **Unnecessary Infrastructure:**

- LGI residents have successfully used septic systems for decades without any reported issues of leakage or contamination.
- The recent addition of "city" water further reduces concerns, as shallow wells for drinking water are no longer in use.

### **Financial Burden:**

- Many residents are still recovering from the financial devastation of Hurricane Ian.
- The rumored \$20,000 connection fee is an unreasonable additional expense, especially for those who recently replaced their septic systems.
- Forcing residents with fixed incomes to connect to a new system disregards their financial limitations.

### **Environmental Concerns:**

- Environmental Utilities, the applicant, lacks experience managing wastewater utilities.
- Proper wastewater treatment is crucial for the health of Placida Bay and our island environment.
- We lack confidence in Environmental Utilities' ability to handle unforeseen circumstances or manage the system effectively.

### **Alternative Solutions:**

- We are open to exploring options for affordable, well-managed sewer service if necessary.
- A system overseen by a reputable entity with a proven track record, such as Charlotte County, would be preferable.

### **Request for Denial:**

We urge you to deny the current application for this proposed sewer system. LGI residents value our existing septic systems, our financial well-being, and the environmental health of our island. We believe alternative solutions can be explored if necessary.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

The Residents of LGI Barrier Island

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** G.S. Buhler <gsbuhler@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 14, 2024 2:33 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Subject:** Fw: REQUEST FOR WASTEWATER SERVICE

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I am writing to you today in complete favor for a "**Centralized Sewer System**" for Don Pedro/ Palm Island. I am an owner on Don Pedro Island and have been on the island over 20 years. I came to this island because it was quiet, clean, and fresh. Our waters are in danger of pollution from septic tanks. There have been a large amount of research surveys done on communities that use septic tanks and all are in agreement that they are terrible for the environment.

I was shocked in 2022 that this was voted down - I did send in a letter requesting sewer service. I know there is a group on the island that is very vocal against this idea. I am writing today to let you know that there are many others that understand why we need a central sewer system. I would suggest having an educational seminar for those residents to educate them on the damage that their septic tank is doing to the waters around the island. They are simply voting against it due to the cost. There are many things in life that I do not want to pay for, but maintaining the quality of our water is one that I am willing to pay for.

I have been a resident of Florida since I was 5. When I was 10, I went to Key Largo and stayed with friends - they lived on a canal and it was crystal clear - I put on a mask and snorkeled. I went back to that same house 40 years later - that canal was black with algae growth and you could barely see anything. The algae killed all of the coral and most of the fish that lived in the coral. This was directly caused by all of the septic tanks leaking into their water. There are many stories like this around our great state.

All we hear every day is how important our environment is - I am struggling to understand how this is even an issue? Lets bring our waters back to pristine level they were 20 years ago when I came to this island- PLEASE PROVIDE US WITH A CENTRAL SEWER SYSTEM!!!

Thank You,  
Gary Buhler  
gsbuhler@aol.com  
55 Bayshore Circle