

Charlie Smith

From: Charlie Smith on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 2:21 PM
To: 'Meighan Kerr'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Docket #20240032-SU

Good afternoon Meighan Kerr

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20240032, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Best regards,

Charlie Smith II

Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850
850-413-6770

PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your email message may be subject to public disclosure

From: Meighan Kerr <meighank@coloradomaterialsinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 2:19 PM
To: Office of Chairman La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Cc: Mike Riley <mikenriley@comcast.net>
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU
Importance: High

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

Dear Government Representatives,

I am writing in regard to the above-mentioned docket number regarding the installation of centralized sewer to Knight and Don Pedro Islands, also referred to as Palm Island.

I am a property owner on Knight Island – I own a home at 18 Bayshore Circle as well as two empty lots at 16 and 36 Bayshore Circle. I am adamantly opposed to this request by EU to provide wastewater services to our islands and ask that you deny the request.

I have owned this property since 2017 and the septic systems we currently have in place are more than adequate for the needs of our islands. In 2022, I replaced my septic drain field at a personal cost of \$17,440. If this request is granted, I will

now be responsible for an additional initial investment of approximately \$13,500, not including the required expensive electrical panel upgrades, and my \$17,440 investment becomes worthless. These costs are in addition to the high costs most of us islanders are currently dealing with because of major damage caused by Hurricane Ian. I am using every bit of extra cash and available credit that I have access to to make these repairs and do not have the ability to come up with the additional unnecessary funds. I will also then be responsible for monthly estimated costs of \$250 for a service that isn't needed nor wanted by the islanders. This is a seasonal home for me and I am already on the verge of having to sell it and walk away due to the current costs without considering these additional unnecessary costs.

Power outages on the island are common, and when the power goes out it can take a significant amount of time to get it running again since the ferry often cannot run when the weather is severe enough to cause outages. The pump associated with this new wastewater system would not work for extended power outages while the current septic system works as long as necessary regardless of power.

Due to Hurricane Ian in 2022, we are already seeing drastically increased ferry wait times due to the construction crews needed to perform repairs. It is currently not uncommon to wait an hour or more to get on the ferry due to this increased traffic. As repairs are still being done, this is expected to continue for quite a while. Adding a whole additional group of construction vehicles would make this even worse and cause ferry wait issues for years to come while this unnecessary construction is completed.

From an environmental perspective, there has been no testing done to prove there is actual need for the new system. Equipment would be sensitive to the salt air and could require replacement as often as every 5 years, again at extensive cost to the islanders. And if there is a failure, a sewage spill into the Intracoastal would cause major and long-term environmental issues to the entire area. The current septic system is not broken and has no current environmental downside.

Again, I am asking you to reject the request of EU to provide wastewater services to the Don Pedro and Knight Islands community. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

Meighan Kerr, CPA
Controller
CFO
Colorado Materials, Inc