

April 6th, 2024

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

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COMMISSION
CLERK

To Whom it May Concern:

Regarding : Docket No. 20240032-SU – Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC.

I object to the approval of the application for the certification to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities L.L.C.

My specific concerns and reasons for this certification not be approved is as follows:

1. This certification application has been submitted previously and was not approved due to the overwhelming response from the community at a great financial expense of hiring lawyers, completing research, time spent, etc.
2. It was proven that the existing use of septic tanks has not altered the water quality or added extreme pollution to the existing environment.
3. The initial or upfront construction cost to the homeowners will be/was an extreme financial burden to the homeowners levied by Environmental Utilities L.L.C.
4. The infrastructure on Little Gasparilla Island does not allow for easement of the required construction for the wastewater service. The easements if there are any - is a sandy path used for the specific general purpose of electric golf cart and smaller type vehicles, with the rare exception of maintenance gas vehicles. The use of existing easements affect quality of life for the residents.
5. The previously proposed wastewater system was similar to the existing septic tanks in a way that the wastewater was emptied into a tank. The only difference is the new proposed system will pump out the wastewater on a timer using electricity. As we have just experienced with Hurricane Ian, when there is a disaster there is no electricity on the island. The island may not have electricity for several weeks. The previously proposed Environmental Utilities, L.L.C. wastewater removal would create a sludge overflow problem while people are trying to make their homes livable again. In the disaster of Hurricane Ian, the septic tanks worked in the condition of no electricity because the septic tanks are based on gravity and work with a drainage field.

6. Environmental Utilities LLC will not – or didn't previously - require the largest wastewater residents/contributors – the cluster of townhomes and multi-based apartments – to hook up to their system due to their existing wastewater management system. If these condos and townhomes are fine then so are the homes that also already have their own existing wastewater management system, which has proven reliable in extreme conditions. This creates bias and unfair requirements.

I vehemently oppose Environmental Utilities LLC being able to get a certificate to manage the wastewater on Little Gasparilla Island. The cost to the homeowners is unfair and biased.

I also read that Charlotte County Utilities planned for construction and wastewater management for the Don Pedro Island, which includes Little Gasparilla Island, Don Pedro Preserve, and Knight Island (Palm Island Estates) in the near future, before 2030. Based on what I researched, at that time, the cost will be built into the service of wastewater management. The initial cost or the assessment to all the homeowners will be reasonable and up-front costs can be spread out over time.

Thank you for your consideration of denying this certification of wastewater management by Environmental Utilities, LLC. This certificate has already been denied and the original vote of no should be re-stated immediately, so home and land owners do not need to rehire lawyers and create another financial burden.

Please notify me of informal meetings, FAW notices, all recommendations and final orders by the commission in regard to the above mentioned docket number and subject.

Sincerely,



Curtis and Marie Rockwood
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Placida, FL 33946

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