

Charlie Smith

From: Betty Leland
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 12:17 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket #20240032
Attachments: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Fw: Objection: Docket #20240032-SU Application

Good Afternoon:

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
(850) 413-6024

Charlie Smith

From: Mike Riley <mikenriley@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 12:08 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Cc: 'Mike Riley'
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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My name is Victoria Millette and I am a property owner and live at 220 Kettle Harbor Drive, Don Pedro Island which is within the proposed service area of the Environmental Utilities, Inc. (EU) application for wastewater service. I am a resident of Florida and have lived at this address for over 15 years.

I OBJECT TO THE PROPOSAL UNDER DOCKET #20240032-SU AND ASK THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO DENY THE APPLICATION FOR ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZTION FOR THIS PROPOSED CENTRAL SEWER SYSTEM.

My objections are many, but primarily focus on the need and cost of the proposed system to landowners. Water quality testing is vital to prove a NEED for conversion from septic's to a central sewer system and I am NOT AWARE of any substantial or adequate water testing performed by EU. Charlotte County has done extensive water quality testing and found no evidence to prove the islands are polluting the Intra-coastal waters or Lemon Bay. On the other hand, Charlotte County has found that their recycle water program for large commercial water users, like golf courses, does not meet current federal standards and is a primary if not the major contributor to the excessive nutrient levels (nitrogen, etc.) in Lemon Bay, yet they are in support of this application. If there is no need (water quality issues) then this application should be denied before it costs everyone too much money.

The cost of this proposed wastewater system is excessive with initial homeowner costs of nearly \$20,000 plus additional cost of electrical panel work for the pumps, continued sludge removal from the proposed small 60 gallon storage (septic style) tank on homeowner property, and taking of private property from each homeowner for an easement to place the storage tank. All of this plus a monthly wastewater utility cost of around \$250 per month. We (Island residents) just finished major rebuilding from hurricane Ian and this additional cost is unbelievable.

Now look at the FACT that only a couple of septic systems were damaged and had to be replaced from Hurricane Ian – no significant, or even minor wastewater spills or environmental damage. With this proposed system of individual homeowner pumps to move the wastewater, when there is a power outage we could see a horrible wastewater spill in OUR YARDS causing significant damage to property, wildlife, and native plants.

Please deny this application for original certificate of authorization for this central sewer system.

Victoria Millette

220 Kettle Harbor Dr
PO Box 3554
Placida, FL 33946-3554
303-475-0480

Charlie Smith

From: Debra Malone <dskmalone@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 11:41 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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Commissioners,

We are property owners and residents on Palm Island. The purpose of this correspondence is to formally request that you Deny the wastewater services application submitted to you by Environmental Utilities LLC.

Our reasons for objecting to EU's proposal are numerous and include the following:

There is no reason wastewater services are needed on Palm Island. The costs will be prohibitive for most residents. The impact on landscape and existing habitat will be excessive.

This action will pave the way for unwanted additional building on the island. Traffic congestion will be unacceptable. Our property will be infringed upon and our rights will be taken with no compensation to us. The costs for both initial hook-up as well as monthly costs will be prohibitive and outrageous.

EU has no expertise or skills necessary to initiate or manage such an endeavor.

The risk of environmental catastrophe is enormous including possible sewer spillage into the canals and Gulf. As property owners we have no confidence that this system or this company will be able to manage this project in the best of circumstances, not to mention the hazards that will come during unforeseen storms.

We are therefore strongly urging you to DENY the application submitted by Environmental Utilities LLC for wastewater services.

Respectfully,
John & Debra Malone
430 N. Gulf Boulevard
Placida, FL
dskmalone@gmail.com

Charlie Smith

From: Jean Schultz <themumma2@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 10:28 AM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay
Cc: Don Schultz; mfriedman@deanmead.com
Subject: Fw: Objection: Docket #20240032-SU Application

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We are writing to respond to the recent legal notice from Environmental Utilities LLC (EU) regarding their application to the Public Service Commission for the installation of central sewer on the barrier islands of Little Gasparilla Island, Don Pedro Island and Knight Island.

We formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service.

We **strongly object** to this renewed initiative that was previously denied after a lengthy, detailed and expensive legal and public review in which many practical issues were exposed and successfully challenged by residents of the islands.

There was (and still is) an overwhelming lack of support for even considering allowing a private, for-profit, inexperienced entity to provide sewer services that the majority of home owners feel is both unnecessary and extremely costly compared to the current septic solutions.

There has been no evidence provided that supports a need for service in the proposed service area. Expert witnesses previously refuted the arguments that EU put forward at the last Administrative Hearing on this issue.

In fact, the considerable damage that these island sustained from the 2022 hurricane underscores the contention that having septic systems in place forestalled even more potential damage than if the previously proposed sewer system had replaced the effective septic systems. From an environmental, maintenance and emergency perspective there are many more concerns with a sewer system on islands accessed only by a ferry and boats than with the current septic systems.

The cost of implementing a sewer system is extremely high and a disservice to the many homeowners who are still recovering financially and structurally from the 2022 hurricane damage.

It was brought to our attention during the last go around that the projected average residential bills were both misleading and woefully understated. Also, the proposed "cost plus" model is a red flag and offers no protection to the consumers/homeowners.

This renewed initiative does not make sense on so many levels. It feels like a solution in search of a problem.

It would cause significant financial hardship and environmental concerns, not the least of which is sewage back-up during a prolonged weather related event when power sources are unavailable or generator capacity / fuel is exhausted.

Please deny this Docket #20240032-SU application.

Donald and Jean Schultz

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33946

(Knight Island)

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