

Charlie Smith

From: Charlie Smith on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 2:43 PM
To: 'dave ferri'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Sewer LGI

Good afternoon Kathy and Dave Ferri,

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: dave ferri <kdisland@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 7:39 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Chairman 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>; Office of Commissioner Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Cc: Joel D Piktel <joel.piktel@abbvie.com>
Subject: Sewer LGI

We are property owners on Little Gasparilla Island, specifically at 8594 Marsh Ave, Placidia , Fl. 33946. We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed central sewer project on Little Gasparilla Island. We are formally requesting that the Public Service Commission deny the application for wastewater service proposed by Environmental Utilities, LLC. It appears this request is not driven by the needs of the island, but only to benefit a business that has no experience installing sewers. The proposed project has major implications and costs to the environment and island residents. Our major concerns include:

1. As homeowners, we have major concerns about mandatory hookup requirements. We are not willing or able to pay extraordinary costs to convert to a new system when there is nothing wrong with our current septic that we maintain. We are not willing or able to pay the cost of additional electric service if and the potential cost of installing a new or added panel. We see this as an unwarranted and expensive complication of what has been a simple, affordable, and reliable septic system that we have used for decades without any problems.
2. The proposed monthly residential cost for service is reported to be extremely high and not acceptable. The rates being discussed are above and beyond current rates on the mainland and would be a totally new monthly expense for Little Gasparilla Island homeowners.
3. The proposed system's reliability and maintenance is unproven. Environmental Utilities, LLC has not demonstrated any technical expertise with this type of project, nor do they have a proven record that they can safely and reliably service the proposed system. If a central sewer system is proven to be an urgent need for the barrier islands, it should be installed and

maintained as a municipal project with county and state officials responsible and accountable for the project's oversight and success.

4. The installation of sewer lines, tanks, and pumps at each property presents a large and immediate impact to the nature and landscape of the island. This disruption has the potential to harm our local wildlife, such as our cherished gopher tortoise population, which is included in the Florida Endangered and Threatened Species List. The installation project activities would also endanger and damage the island's vegetation that we have carefully and thoughtfully maintained for decades. The ongoing risk to the environment due to future potential system failures in the event of storms is much greater and more severe than the current private property septic system. One storm can cause much more environmental harm in the event of damage to a central sewer system than to a residential septic tank.

5. The need for electric pumps at each property presents a new burden on Little Gasparilla Island's electricity supply. We have concerns that this burden on the existing electrical infrastructure could lead to a risk of fires. A proliferation of propane generators being used to prevent sewer back up in case of power outages also presents an increased risk of fires on Little Gasparilla Island.

Thank you,

Kathy and Dave Ferri