

**Antonia Hover**

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**From:** Betty Leland  
**Sent:** Monday, May 6, 2024 9:07 AM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** FW: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

Good Morning:

Please place this email in Docket #20240032.

Thanks.

Betty A. Leland, Executive Assistant to  
Commissioner Art Graham  
Florida Public Service Commission  
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**From:** Dale Novak <[dnovak@novakcreative.net](mailto:dnovak@novakcreative.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 06, 2024 8:29 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk <[CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US](mailto:CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US)>  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa <[Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us)>; Office of Commissioner Clark <[Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us)>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <[Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us)>; Office of Commissioner Graham <[Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US](mailto:Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US)>; Office of Commissioner Fay <[Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us)>  
**Subject:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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May 4th, 2024

Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU)  
Application to the Public Service Commission (PSC)  
Installation of central sewer on the Islands of Don Pedro, Knight, Little Gasparilla and Palm Island.  
RE. Docket #20240032-SU

Dear Commissioners:

Please note that I would like to be placed on the “Interested Persons” with regards to this application.

As a 20+ year “islander” we strongly object to the continued assault on our way of life and the proposal as put forth by Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) for a central sewer system on the barrier islands.

1) There is no need for this system. The VAST majority of the homes on Palm, Knight, Don Pedro and Little Gasparilla are only occupied part time. These are low destiny “rural” residential areas as defined by the County.

There is NO environmental impact. The pollutants in our waters (nitrogen) are primarily coming from the discharges from Lake Okeechobee. These issues are well documented and supported in detail by Captains for Clean Water. Even Governor DeSantis has recognized these issues and fought to help preserve and restore the Everglades and protect the citizens of Southwest Florida from this ongoing battle. To suggest ANY water quality issues are born from some part time septic system use is ridiculous. Elon Musk once said “you can get a study to say whatever you want, it just depends on who’s paying for it.”

2) The proposal by EU will require massive intrusions to our private property with NO compensation to the owners. I’ll let the Lawyers sort this out, but even the 5th amendment of the US Constitution states “nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.” Also, Florida Law does allow property owners to refuse a utility easement request. I expect that many of the homeowners will fight this in court, not only directed at the EU, but Charlotte County as well.

3) The financial burdens placed on the property owners is egregious. By the EU’s own admission property owners will be faced with carrying over \$13,500 in costs and fees to hook up to the system. That DOES NOT include all sorts of additional expenses such as a need for a potential generator, electrical panel service and the removal of the the existing (and very expensive) septic system. The disruption and intrusion to our property and vegetation — and loss of vital gopher tortuous and wildlife habitat. The list goes on and on.

4) The monthly costs would also be outrageous. The suggested monthly costs (\$263.57/month for wastewater service alone) are easily five times the average sewer bill in the State of Florida which stands at \$61.24 for 4,000 gallons of use. And, that state-wide figure INCLUDES the water bill. The EU’s cost would ONLY be for sewer. Does this sound reasonable? I ask the Public Service Commissioners ... how much is your sewer bill?

5) For our home, which is less than two years old, we would be putting a match to the cost to install a COUNTY APPROVED and fully compliant septic system which works perfectly and has no issues. The total financial impact to our property could easily exceed \$25,000-\$30,000. We have no need for a central sewer system and will legally fight the connection to our home — as I expect that many others will.

6) The disruption to our roads and island will last for years and years. This will be potentially piled on top of the damage of hurricane Ian. Many island residents are still trying to navigate the cost, time to repair and/or rebuild, and the devastating impact to their lives. Many residents are also still fighting their insurance providers to pay claims. And now the County wants to dump this on us?

7) And, I save this for my last point. The EU has ZERO experience in a project of this magnitude. In fact, they have NO experience at all in operating a central sewer system. None. They don’t even have a website or a real business email address ([eu777offices@gmail.com](mailto:eu777offices@gmail.com)). I can set up a free gmail address in five minutes. I could put up a quick website in a day. Their physical office address appears to be a strip center location that sells grills and accessories. Seriously, this is the best option for our barrier islands? It’s a total start-up with no track record and absolutely no business presence. The odds of a total failure of the entire process is astronomically high. Who picks up the tab when the EU fails? The fact that the County is supporting this reeks of desperation and crony capitalism.

<https://www.google.com/maps/@26.9323933,-82.2778117,3a,75y,179.68h,88.31t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1spcMcx6OqcEYpPo1t4taDIA!2e0!7i16384!8i8192?entry=ttu>

As such, we vehemently oppose and object to this proposal by the EU and demand that the County Commissioners of Charlotte County support the voices of those who will be directly impacted by this ill-conceived proposal over that of a for-profit private company with only their financial interest in mind. Expect a vigorous fight, not only for this proposal, but during the next election.

We respectfully ask the Florida Public Service Commission to deny this application (again) for the good of our islands, our native wildlife, and fiscal common sense.

Regards,

Dale & Julie Novak  
611 Bocilla Drive  
Full time residents  
Don Pedro Island  
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