

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Fay
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 10:28 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 20240032-SU
Attachments: Environmental Utilities, LLC. DOCKET NO. 20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; RE Docket #202240032-SU; RE: Docket#20240032-SU

Please the attached emails in Docket No. 20240032-SU

Thanks

Antonia Hover

From: David Stubbs II <ohiost8buckeyes@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 3:26 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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To whom it may concern,

I'm so sorry that I am needed out of town on the day we were to meet again and I would make the same statements as before which is summarized by, I'm still not sure as to why I'm having to even consider the experience again.

With that said, I want to take the opportunity to again express my disapproval of this proverbial S--T Show. I'm a well known industry leading designer of systems and processes for various manufactures and if I had ever come up with this harebrained idea, even if I was paid, it would be certain retirement.... Hummers' maybe that's the plan.

There are so many things that I guess i'll never understand on items like this that are imposed on us, without financial support, especially as it relates to the character (in which we cannot mention) as it relates to the perceived quality of the individuals on the other side of this request.

Luckily for me there was a Facebook post this am, that made me smile as I ponder never hooking up to such a dismal plan. I share this post with you below in case you missed it, its worth the paper I printed it on.

A summary from concerned person

1: NO need has been demonstrated.

2: Cost is outrageous: in addition to hookup , we have to give up an easement , destroy our landscaping, provide power(larger panel and generator)

3: No county or government assistance.

4: The proposed technology is no longer being used due by our countries to the high cost of maintenance.

5: the applicant has no direct experience on a project of this magnitude and has a questionable background involving various arrests.

6: Timing could not be worst: Every owner has been saddled with huge direct costs from Helene and Milton.
TY

7: Speak with any property owner on Lemonbay Lane where they have a low pressure system. They have all experience 2-8k in pump replacements over the past 5 years.

8: the only logical reason this can or is being considered is not being addressed, It will benefit only one person...The Applicant.... Period

I am not saying there is any wrong doing here , but it sure feels like it
Nothing on this issue passes a simple smell test.

Jim Luscombe
420 Bocilla Dr
727-515-0274
Jbluscombe@gmail.com

Be well,

I'll continue to say no in my absence.

David A Stubbs II
352 South Gulf Blvd
Placida, FL 33946

Antonia Hover

From: Lisa Simmons <lisabsimmons@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 8:16 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Environmental Utilities, LLC. DOCKET NO. 20240032--SU

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

Dear Commissioner Fay,

Here we are again! This is the second attempt by Jack Boyer, Environmental Utilities (EU), to force a sewer system on Little Gasparilla Island and again I am writing this email to formally request that the Public Service Commissioners deny the EU's application for wastewater service on Little Gasparilla Island. The first time Mr. Boyer applied, the property owners on the island were not even aware of the application until it reached the Public Service Commission. We wrote letters, presented witnesses, and spoke against this project, your board voted to deny it. Now, here we are just a short time later fighting the same battle. Only this time, we are trying to recover from two brutal hurricanes that affected us all on the island. I have pictures of water lines totally exposed by the tidal surge. There were also many broken water lines. It is obvious that if these had been sewer lines, we would have had a major sewer spill on the island. I am aware that some of the lids came off of the septic tanks during the storm, (not mine). However, the amount of sewage that overflowed as those tanks filled with water is nothing compared to a sewer pipe leaking or maybe multiple sewer pipes leaking. I have taken the following data from the Charlotte County Records data. "From 2017 through November 2024, Charlotte County data shows that their sewer systems have spilled almost 4 Million gallons of sewage. 22% of those spills, 839,748 gallons, have found their way into our waterways. These massive spills affect our soil, water quality, wildlife, plants and overall ecosystem. **County data shows that low pressure sewer systems contribute disproportionately to sewer spills: Despite making up only 25% of the county's sewer systems, they are responsible for over 51% of all reported spills.**

This does not sound like a good idea for Little Gasparilla Island. I'm not opposed to a sewer system, I just don't think this type of sewer is appropriate for a barrier island if its use has been stopped on the mainland. I have owned a vacation home on the island since 1996. My children and family have enjoyed the tranquility of this island for many years. My intention is to leave this little piece of paradise to my children when I die. After reviewing the expected costs to install a low-pressure wastewater system on the island, I realize that I will not be able to maintain the home I love so much. The costs are prohibitive for me as I am sure it will force many others to sell their places too. The proposed costs far exceed any other wastewater service in the state, and I find that totally unacceptable and unfair. The costs are not equitable to what other people are paying for the same services across the county and state. In addition, the need for a generator as a backup and installation of an additional electrical panel is ridiculous. The standing water caused by multiple hurricanes last Fall and the electrical outages we often experience would not bode well with the system Mr. Boyer is proposing. Most homes on LGI are vacation homes and are unoccupied most of the time. There would be no one there to turn on a generator to run a sump pump for the sewer system. I suggest that the septic tanks be inspected, and ones found to be deficient be repaired or replaced. There is no reason to force this sewer system on us. I also have concerns about the environmental impact this project would have. We have gopher tortoises that have already been affected by the floods we have had in the past year and now would be disturbed by a project of this magnitude. We also have a pair of nesting bald eagles on the north end of LGI. If they are disturbed too much, they will leave the nest and find another home. If there were eaglets in the nest at that time, they would die. Please, I ask you to put yourself in my place and make the right decision for the residents of Palm Island and Little Gasparilla Island. It is truly heartbreaking for me to think about being forced to sell my place because of the exorbitant and unrealistic expense that would be imposed on me. Please vote no!!!

I would like to come to speak at the hearing, but I teach Nursing at Hillsborough Community College and am not able to take two days off to come to the hearings. Especially, not knowing when the public will be allowed to speak. Thank you for considering my objections when voting on this project. We've been through enough out there.

Sincerely,

Lisa Simmons MSN/Ed, CHSE, RN

813-323-4814

Antonia Hover

From: Dale Novak <dnovak@novakcreative.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 10:42 AM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioners:

I'm am writing you today in opposition to the Private Sewer Project being proposed by Environmental Utilities (EU). Docket #20240032-SU.

While there are dozens of reason to oppose this “for profit” system such as the massive cost (estimated to be over \$40,000 per property owner), the proven and documented rate of failure of these systems, the ridiculously unqualified “zero experience” credentials of the EU – and the main fact, that there is absolutely no reason (scientific or otherwise) that we need this in our community. One predominantly comes to mind at this time.

As a barrier island community we have been ravage by three hurricanes, Ian, Helene and Milton. Many of the Islanders are still making repairs and battling insurance companies for desperately needed payments. We are reeling from debris and disrupted roads and doing everything we can collectively to get our lives on these precious islands back to “normal.” The process has been slow and enormously costly to the homeowners. But we have been resilient, rolled up our sleeves and collectively gone to work.

Now, in the mist of that, we have another battle on our hands for a private sewer project the vast majority if Islanders don't want – and more importantly – we DON'T need.

To suggest that in the middle of all the chaos of repairs and cost associated with them, Charlotte County and the EU want to kick us some more and force-feed this project down our throats is absolutely appalling. Evidently, they must believe the every homeowner on our island(s) has \$40,000 (+) to just casually write a check for on top of the massive cost of repairing our islands and homes.

What happens, I respectfully ask, when homeowners can't pay these outrageous and utterly ridiculous cost and fees for a private sewer system that seems to have no limits as to how much it will cost each homeowner? Will Charlotte County and the EU start taking each of us to court? Will the County apply a lien on our properties? Will owners be forced to sell — at any cost?

Beat us when we're down. Kick us some more. Who cares what we are dealing with with regards to repairing our islands and homes. It's more important that we force an unwanted “private for profit” project on us and destroy our finances and moral spirit – even to the point that some homeowners will be forced to sell their homes.

To put this in personal terms – I ask each of you? Do you and your family have \$40,000, and potentially much more depending on the circumstances of each installation, to casually spend on on your home's plumbing system?

It just seems to me that not only is this massively opposed project not needed and widely opposed, but the timing of it couldn't be worse for us and our island community.

Put yourselves in our shoes.

Respectfully,

Dale & Julie Novak
611 Bocilla Drive
Don Pedro Island
dnovak@novakcreative.net
920.664.1088

Antonia Hover

From: James Onufrak <jonufrak@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 11:42 AM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Lilly Onufrak; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: RE Docket #202240032-SU

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To Whom it may concern,

My name is Jim Onufrak, 17 Palm Drive - Palm Island resident.

I am writing to let you know we do not want the sewer system installed on Palm Island for a multitude of reasons including the individual wanting to install the system has no experience and will most likely collect our money and has no intention of even starting this project.

Antonia Hover

From: rebecca newman <mswconch@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 4:27 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: RE: Docket#20240032-SU

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Hello, my name is Rebecca Newman and the address I am writing of concern is 23 Palm Dr, Placida, Florida 33946. My home is located on Palm Island, also known as Don Pedro Island. My email address is mswconch@gmail.com.

I was notified a private, for-profit, utility company was requesting to install a central sewer service system on Don Pedro Island where my home listed above is located.

As a home owner I do not understand how this could happen without due diligence.

1. To my knowledge there are no recent studies or testing completed on our island indicating a need for this central water sewer system.
2. And of more concern there has not been a bidding process to allow other businesses to submit their proposals to install. This is a very large and expensive project, how can one, for profit company, be provided the ok to proceed. And why is this a for-profit business. Shouldn't the local government be providing this service, if needed, to the local residents. Isn't water services considered a right of every person with restrictions of profit being considered?

This company EU lacks the experience of owning and installing a wastewater utility company. My understanding is EU wants to install a low-pressure system which Charlotte County won't install anymore due to needed excessive maintenance, which leads to excessive cost.

Our island has protected animals and very delicate eco-systems. Shouldn't more research and information be provided before any company is allowed to proceed?

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter,

Rebecca Newman