

Antonia Hover

From: Betty Leland
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 9:14 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket #20240032
Attachments: RE. Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU - Please Deny EU's Sewer Application; Docket #20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU - Please Deny EU's Sewer Application; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; #20240032-su; RE: Docket #20240032-SU ; #20240032-su; 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
bleland@psc.state.fl.us
(850) 413-6024

Antonia Hover

From: Dale Novak <dnovak@novakcreative.net>
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 11:26 AM
To: Records Clerk
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioners:

I implore you to deny this request by Environmental Utilities (EU).

Please put your self in our shoes.

The VAST amount of homeowners on these islands have perfectly functioning septic systems. The DON'T require electricity to operate. Many of these septic systems are practically new (and at a great cost to each homeowner). They are tested and approved by Charlotte County — and comply with all the current rules and regulations.

Please imagine if you can another storm like Helen or Milton. We as Islanders certainly can. The island is under water again. Only this time, we have potentially thousands of ELECTRIC POWERED pumps, grinders and lift stations all over the island. Every one of them have been now destroyed by seawater. They won't power on — or they potentially become fire hazards when the power to the island is restored. Shorting out or simply freezing up from sandy, dirty, turbulent seawater infiltrating each pump, grinder and lift station.

Now what happens?

If is highly logical that the EU will not be able to restore these systems in a timely manner. They are too small, inexperienced and lack any practical knowledge of dealing with a complete shut-down of the sewer system. This means we won't be able to return to our homes for potentially for many months — or possibly over a year.

Where do we go? Our home on the island is our residence — not a seasonal property. After both Helene and Milton we were back in our home in under two weeks. With Helene, it was a matter of days. FPL had power restored in both instances fairly quick. Our septic system was 100% operational. We even had it inspected after Milton and it required NO repairs or service. Keep in mind, even when the power was off, our septic system still functioned.

This won't be the case with the EU's proposed system. The entire sewer system will be shut down. All the electric motors will be destroyed and they won't be fixable. They will require replacement.

How long will this take? How much will it cost? WHO will pay for? I'm assuming that the EU will simply bill every homeowner all over again for replacing the motors and pumps at each home.

The people who live on these barrier islands are extremely resilient. We don't shy away from hard work or fixing our properties. But we DON'T own a money printing press. We can not sustain paying the EU for every aspect of their business — and that is precisely what the EU is demanding each homeowner does — pays them for every expense. It's just not feasible for this to be a successful plan. It will crush us financially and emotionally.

And I also ask you — what happens to a homeowner when they can't pay for all of this? Get a loan? That's not a plan. If you can't afford it, getting a loan is akin to just plugging a few holes in a sinking ship — it just takes a bit longer to sink. I assume many people will be FORCED to sell their homes and likely at a huge loss. It just seems there should be no way a "private for profit" company and our local and state government should be able to force us from our homes. They get rich, we get poor.

Please let us breathe after dealing with two horrific back-to-back storms. I can't imaging how devastating this will be to our islands, and the people who live here, if it gets approved.

Sincerely,

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

Antonia Hover

From: Ember Harker <ember@launchsnap.com>
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 5:14 PM
To: 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,

After reading the staff's recommendation to approve EU's sewer application, I am in complete shock. Were they at the same hearings I attended in January?

Did they not remember the laughter when EU's engineer, Jonathan Cole, made it abundantly clear he had no real understanding of what this project would entail on our islands? He claimed, "It's the same cost to put one pipe on the ferry as a thousand pipes," and stated, "I don't know of any tidal impact to a construction project down there." How could he not know? If his numbers are being used by EU's financial expert, Deborah Swain, to estimate costs, shouldn't he have at least a basic understanding of how the ferry operates, the inevitable building delays, or even the type of roads we have?

Let me paint a real picture: it cost over **\$150,000** in barge fees alone to build my modest 1,800 sq. ft. home just two years ago. Cole's estimate of **\$600,000 for all barge fees is laughable**. Plus, when tides are low or winds are high, large trucks can't cross. Just this past January, we went **three weeks** without trash pickup because Waste Management's **smallest truck** couldn't make it over.

When asked about potential delays, Cole dismissed concerns, saying there's only a "short line in the morning" and that we have "sand roads or whatever they have out there." This made it crystal clear—he has **never even been here**. In reality, contractors face an hour-long wait to get onto Palm Island each morning, and it's even longer at quitting time. This project would make that situation far worse.

Did the staff forget that **hundreds of islanders** showed up to oppose this sewer project? We shared real, lived experiences—many of us lost nearly everything in recent storms, but the one thing that remained intact was our septic systems. Jack Boyer claimed he walked the islands and saw "septic tanks popped up everywhere." That is simply false and quite honestly absurd. I was here just days after both storms and did not see a single tank "popped up." A few tanks on the beach had lost their lids and filled with sand. **Perhaps instead of forcing a central sewer system on us, we should be discussing ways to better secure septic lids.**

Did they notice that only **a handful of people** supported this project? I personally handed out opposition stickers—remember the red circles with a line through them? Out of **500 printed**, I came home with less than **100**. Fewer than **15 people** refused a sticker. The number of speakers in favor? Less than **10**, and nearly all of them were either not stakeholders in this application at all or they are directly related to the applicant—his **son-in-law, daughter, and wife**, who stand to **profit** from this project. These same family members tried to mislead the room with absurd claims of "turds floating around" (which we all know is nonsense), or gave tearful speeches about their children—only to be called out and admit they were related to the applicant. Then they sulked out of the building.

It was a circus!

EU has **not** done its due diligence.

- They have **not** proven a need for this project.

- They had **three years** since the last application—did they conduct **any** water testing? **No.**
- Do they have **any** quantifiable data showing storm damage to island septic systems? **No.**
- Could they have gathered real data from residents? **Sure.** But did they? **No.**
- Do they have realistic cost estimates? **No.**

After listening to these hearings, I wouldn't hire Jack Boyer to mow my lawn—**let alone** install a private sewer system. The fact that anyone would recommend approving this application is **mind-blowing.**

Here's why we **do not** want this:

- **There is no proven need.**
- **It will cost homeowners tens of thousands of dollars, upfront and out-of-pocket.** Do you have \$30,000, \$40,000, or even \$50,000 just lying around? Because I don't.
- **EU is a private company.** They can (and will) charge whatever they want. Our water company already does! Did you know we pay more for water than most people in the U.S.?
- **The pump system they propose is one of the worst technical choices available.**
- **The project will wreak havoc on our island—environmentally, logistically, and financially.**
- **Each homeowner will bear the burden of pulling permits, installing electrical, plumbing, and backup generators for outages.** Have they even factored that into the cost? **I doubt it.**
- **There is no performance bond.** If Boyer botches this project (as he has others in the past) or costs spiral out of control, we have **zero recourse.**

So I ask again—**why on earth would staff recommend granting this application?**

Were they even listening?

I hope you are.

Sincerely,

Ember Harker
381 Kettle Harbor Drive, Placida FL 33946

Antonia Hover

From: Michele <premierholdings280@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2025 12:45 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU - Please Deny EU's Sewer Application

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

Dear Commissioners Clark, Passidomo, Graham, and PSC Clerk,

I am writing to you as a Charlotte County homeowner to urgently plead for your help in denying the certification of central sewer services to EU under Docket #20240032-SU. While the PSC staff report may recommend approval based on EU meeting legal application requirements, I implore you to listen to the overwhelming opposition from our community and do what is right—vote NO on this proposal.

In your 2024 final order, you denied a similar application based on two key factors: inadequate support from Charlotte County and the strong opposition of residents like me. This time, EU may have gained some County backing, but the community's stance remains unchanged—we are united in our fierce resistance to this plan. Your past decision showed that you value our voices, and we need you to stand with us again.

Here's why this proposal must be rejected:

- **Environmental Impact:** Central sewer systems threaten the fragile ecosystems of our area, including the Bocilla Islands Chain, which HB 4077 seeks to protect. More infrastructure contradicts the conservation goals we're fighting for.
- **Community Will:** The vast majority of us do not want this. We've made this clear time and again—our quality of life, property values, and rural character are at stake.
- **Public Health and Safety:** EU's plan doesn't adequately address the risks to our water quality and the potential burden on existing systems, especially in a region where infrastructure expansion is rightly limited.

I respectfully beg you to consider the human cost of this decision. We're not just numbers on a report—we're families, taxpayers, and stewards of this beautiful county who dread the consequences of this sewer system. Please, Commissioners, hear our cries and act in our favor, as you did in 2024. Deny EU's application and protect our community from this unwanted and unnecessary change.

I urge you to vote NO and show that the PSC prioritizes the people over procedural checkboxes. Thank you for your service and for listening to us one last time.

Sincerely,

Michele M Barnes

and

Beverly Williams

Homeowners at 9802 Little Gasparilla Island, Placida FL 33946

Antonia Hover

From: william briggs <web1933@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2025 1:27 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear PSC Commissioners,

I am writing to inform you that my family has owned property on Little Gasparilla Island since 2004. We deeply value the unique character and natural beauty of this special place.

I strongly urge you to vote to DENY the application (Docket #20240032-SU) from Environmental Utilities, as their proposed changes could significantly disrupt the island's environment and way of life that we have cherished for over two decades.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William E Briggs

Mailing Address

1211 Chevy Chase Drive

Sun City Center, FL 33571

Antonia Hover

From: Cari Ward <babytgger@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2025 2:03 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU - Please Deny EU's Sewer Application

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Dear Commissioners Clark, Passidomo, Graham, and PSC Clerk,

I'm a Charlotte County resident asking you to DENY Environmental Utilities' sewer service application (Docket #20240032-SU). My mother has owned a home on Little Gasparilla Island for years, and my kids grew up enjoying its wild, natural charm. Please don't let this plan ruin that.

Even if EU meets legal requirements, our community overwhelmingly says NO—just like we did in 2022 when you rejected a similar proposal. You listened then, and we need you to again. This sewer system threatens our environment, our water quality, and our way of life. Most of us don't want it, and it's not safe or necessary.

This is personal—my family's history is tied to this island. Please vote NO and protect what we love. Thank you for hearing us out.

Sincerely,

Cari Ward
12719 Dreamcatcher Way
Riverview FL 33579

Antonia Hover

From: Karen Mehra <kpm5454@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2025 3:57 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith;
Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioners,

Please please please do not force the sewer system on us!

As a longtime resident of Palm Island Resort, I love so many things that are being threatened by this unnecessary development. You know all the reasons why this is a terrible idea and will be huge, inconvenient, expensive, ecologically unfriendly, and totally unnecessary.

Do not force this on our community.

Thanks for your thoughtful consideration,

Karen Mehra
Seaside 9
Palm Island Resort

Antonia Hover

From: Duane Allen <felixpo6@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2025 4:39 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Commissioner Clark; commisioner.passidomo@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: #20240032-su

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

Thank you for taking the time to hear our concerns about EU's application for sewer installation on our Islands. Your meeting in Englewood, FL was very professional.

As you know, this will be the second time the PSC has ruled on EU's application. Your first ruling we believe was guided by our Charlotte County Commissioners not voicing support for EU and our strongly voiced community concerns.

We are quite sure that EU's personal contact with our Commissioners is what lead to your staff making reference to in their recommendation.
From your meeting with us, we are sure our concerns have not changed. Your staff makes references to our commissioners support of EU.

We know you will make your decision on April 1, 2025. We know you may be guided by your staff. We would like to make our position clear.

If our County Commissioners want us to have sewers on our Islands, then they should responsibly do the following:

1. Perform a study to determine what type of system is best for us. We have many speakers who stated the vacuum system would be wrong.
2. Decide on what system is best and put it out for bid among qualified companies.
3. Get us a grant if possible and if not charge us an appropriate price and amortized the initial amount on our taxes. Many counties have done this.

If you find that you will follow your staff's recommendations, please be guided by our 3 requests above.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Respectfully

Duane L Allen
felixpo6@yahoo.com

Gisela Ziegler-Allen
30 Gasparilla Way Placida, FL 33946

941 928 3631

Antonia Hover

From: Jeannie S. James <jsjames@marlynsteel.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2025 6:04 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: RE: Docket #20240032-SU

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

Dear Commissioners,

RE: Docket #20240032-SU

Please deny EU's request to be the service company for a sewer system on Palm Island, Don Pedro, and Knight Island.

First the vast majority of the people that own property on this island do not want this system. Our septic fields are not the polluters of the waters. Other systems in place like recycled water are dumping far more nutrients into our water system that attribute to red tide and cause environmental damage than our septic systems.

Secondly EU is not experienced enough to build nor maintain a septic system. Please tell us what projects they have done that shows they are capable of installing such a system on such a large scale. Is the State or County guaranteeing that this company can properly install such a system? Are you requiring EU to produce a performance and payment bond to protect that the project will be done properly?

Thirdly I fear what the cost will be for this sewer system from a company that has not done a septic system before. We do not want to have to pay for them to "learn" how to properly run a Public sewer system nor have to pay multiple times for their mistakes. I believe the learning curve will be more detrimental to the environment than keeping our septic systems. Last time they attempted this EU wanted to use plastic tanks which will float if not filled with liquid and require every hook up to have a Backup generator. This requirement for every home to have a generator is cost prohibitive to many owners. This possible requirement makes us doubt the ability of EU.

We are required to have our septic tanks emptied every 5 years. This practice more that protects our environment in keeping the nutrient levels within an acceptable range.

The occupancy of this island does not warrant the need to change to another system. Our current system is not damaging the environment any more that this new system would.

This sewer system is not wanted by the majority of people on the island. And EU has no experience in this type of system.

Please deny EU's ability to privatize our septic system to a sewer system.

Thank you,
Sincerely,

Jeannie James

Antonia Hover

From: Duane Allen <felixpo6@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2025 6:10 PM
To: clerk@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Graham; commisioner.passidomo@psc.state.fl.us
Subject: #20240032-su

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We have read your Staff recommendations for the EU sewer on our island.. We understand you will rule on April 1, 2025.

As you know, this will be the second time the PSC has ruled on this. The previous denial was based on no county support and the demonstrated lack of desire to have sewers by the community.

We are quite sure that individual contact by EU and their lawyers was the reason for the county reversed their support.

If the county wants us to have sewers, they should study the type of sewer appropriate for our island. Then put it out for bid. Then get us grants if appropriate. If grants are not available, then require us to pay over some years in our taxes. This is how most local governments process the sewer implementation, if needed.

How our need, according to Charlotte County, could change in only 2 years is not understandable unless they did a study and demonstrated that need.

Bottom line is we don't want or need a sewer. We live on a bridgeless barrier island. It is a sandbar. The roads won't support it. The water supply won't support it. The system proposed for our island will not work.

If the PSC approves EU application, please require that the County chose a proven system that will work on our type of island. The estimated cost by your staff will not even be close to what our residence will be required to pay and maintain. EU is about the money only. Please look at his record on Little Gasparilla Island which is part of this proposal.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for chairing a local meeting on this subject. It was very professional and well received.

Duane L. Allen
30 Gasparilla Way, Placida 33946
felixpo6@yahoo.com 941 928 3631

Gisela Ziegler-Allen

Antonia Hover

From: rich planer <rpthree@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2025 9:44 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioners

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed public sewer installation on Knight Palm Island. I am a resident of this island and have serious concerns about the project, its necessity, and its potential negative impacts on our community and environment.

My opposition is rooted in the following critical issues:

- **No Need for Service:**
 - There has been no comprehensive water testing or evidence presented that demonstrates a genuine need for a public sewer system.
 - Crucially, there has been no community-wide polling to gauge resident interest or support for this project.
- **Excessive Cost:**
 - The projected homeowner cost of over \$40,000 upfront is exorbitant and financially burdensome.
 - The absence of payment plans, low-cost loans, and an opt-out option creates an unfair and unsustainable financial imposition on residents.
- **Private & For-Profit Operation:**
 - The involvement of a private, for-profit entity (EU) eliminates the benefits of county oversight, such as payment plans and competitive pricing.
 - This lack of oversight leaves residents vulnerable to potential cost overruns and service issues.
- **Outdated Technology:**
 - The proposed low-pressure system is considered outdated and requires excessive maintenance, as evidenced by Charlotte County's discontinuation of its use.
- **Damage to the Environment:**
 - The construction will cause significant disruption and long-term damage to our island's delicate natural wildlife habitats.
 - The islands natural beauty will be damaged for decades.
- **Traffic Congestion:**
 - The increased construction traffic, compounded by existing ferry delays and island accessibility challenges, will exacerbate traffic congestion and inconvenience residents.
- **Maintenance & Emergency Situations:**
 - The required individual grinder pumps are vulnerable to our harsh salt air environment.
 - Emergency repairs after ferry hours pose significant logistical challenges.
- **Undue Installation Burden to the Homeowner:**
 - Homeowners will be responsible for obtaining electric permits, providing electrical service, plumbing, and installing generators for power outages, adding significant cost and complexity.
- **Mandatory Easements:**

- The mandatory easements, requiring approximately 15 feet of property from the house to the road, will restrict homeowners' property use and development.
- **Undesirable Development:**
 - The installation of a central sewer system opens the door to high-density development, such as high-rises, which would fundamentally alter the character of our island, as seen on other barrier islands.
- **No Oversight:**
 - There is no performance bond required, and no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure. This leaves the home owners with all of the risk.

I urge you to reconsider this project based on the significant concerns outlined above. The financial, environmental, and logistical challenges far outweigh any perceived benefits. I believe that preserving the unique character and natural beauty of Knight Island is paramount.

Sincerely,

Richard Planer