

Nickalus Holmes

From: Nickalus Holmes on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 10:31 AM
To: 'Ben Fertic'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Docket #20240032-SU

Good Morning Mr. Fertic

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.

Thank you

Nick Holmes
Commission Deputy Clerk II
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
850-413-6770

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From: Ben Fertic <ferticb@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 10:28 AM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith <Commissioner.Passidomo.Smith@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioners,

This is my first time writing to you, though I did attend the recent hearing and spoke in opposition to the proposed sewer project. As an engineer, I find it almost inconceivable that this project is still being considered. There are numerous reasons for my opposition, which I would like to outline below:

1. Exorbitant Costs - My septic system was recently inspected, pumped, and found to have no issues whatsoever. It's less than 10 years old and functioning perfectly. Furthermore, the county continues to issue permits for new septic systems on the island, which raises serious questions about the necessity of this project.
2. Lack of Demonstrated Need - The county nor applicant has not provided evidence of a pressing need for this sewer system. In fact, public records show that municipal sewage systems have caused far greater environmental harm than septic systems ever could. For example, just one lift station in Tampa Bay dumped over 21 million gallons of sewage during recent storms. Across the state, more than 1 billion gallons of sewage have been spilled by public facilities over the past decade—these are verifiable figures.
3. Inexperience of the Applicant - The applicant proposing this private sewer system has no experience

operating or maintaining such infrastructure. This raises significant concerns about reliability and accountability. To draw a parallel, even basic services like trash collection are inconsistent on the island—my trash is only picked up once a week, and there were three missed weeks in January due to barge issues. Imagine the chaos in your personal household if trash came once in a MONTH.

Beyond these points, there are other critical factors impacting our community:

- Ferry Congestion - Last week, contractors trying to reach my home to wallpaper a bathroom spent 2.5 hours waiting for the ferry in the morning. When they left at 3 PM, it took them until 5 PM just to get off the island. Ferry congestion is becoming so severe that vendors are increasingly reluctant to work here—a situation that will only worsen with additional infrastructure projects like this one. It is making living on the island almost unbearable, so the residents are expected to wait for 4 hours (on and off) for a run to Publix?
- Power Outages - As I write this email, we are experiencing yet another power outage—our third in just four weeks. Currently, 739 homes are without power (see attached screenshot). This outage began on March 29th at 4:55 AM and remains unresolved as of today. Combined with ferry delays and other logistical challenges, these outages highlight the fragility of our existing infrastructure.

In light of these issues, I urge you to deny this project. The costs, lack of necessity, and logistical challenges far outweigh any potential benefits (it is hard to find A benefit).

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Fertic
40 Palm Drive



CREW ARRIVED

We estimate that your power will be restored by: **3/31/2025 at 11:00 AM**. Please remember that estimated times of restoration are subject to change based on the issue.

Hi's Details

LATEST INFORMATION

We apologize for the inconvenience. We're working to restore your power safely and as quickly as possible.

OUTAGE CAUSE

We're still assessing the cause of the outage. We'll provide an update as soon as possible.

CUSTOMERS AFFECTED

730

EQUIPMENT

Main power line

TICKET NUMBER

704

TICKET CREATION DATE

03/29/2025 04:55 AM