

**Nickalus Holmes**

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**From:** Betty Leland  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2025 1:31 PM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032  
**Attachments:** docket # 20240032; docket # 20240032; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Docket # 20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Environmental Utilities - Little Gasparilla Island; Comment on Docket # 20240032 -- The Proposed Project is Unlawful And Must Be Rejected

Good Afternoon:

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](mailto:bleland@psc.state.fl.us)  
(850) 413-6024

## Nickalus Holmes

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**From:** Janet Dabal <janetdabal@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2025 9:49 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Subject:** docket # 20240032

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

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Janet Dabal. I own Unit F7 in Hideaway Bay Beach Club Condos on Little Gasparilla Island. It has been brought to my attention that Environmental Utilities has applied for certificate to install sewers on our island. EU made a change to the location of waste water transmission line from Don Pedro State Park to Hideaway Bay property. We have a DEP permitted septic plant and do not need or want a sewer line brought to our property. Please, please deny the application.

Regards,  
Janet Dabal

Sent from my iPad

## Nickalus Holmes

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**From:** Janet Dabal <janetdabal@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2025 9:50 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith;  
Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Subject:** docket # 20240032

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Dear Commissioners,

My name is Janet Dabal. I own Unit F7 in Hideaway Bay Beach Club Condos on Little Gasparilla Island.

It has been brought to my attention that Environmental Utilities has applied for certificate to install sewers on our island. EU made a change to the location of waste water transmission line from Don Pedro State Park to Hideaway Bay property.

Please, please deny the application.

Sent from my iPad

## Nickalus Holmes

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**From:** MICHELLE ZAKRAJSHEK <rogerandmichelle7@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2025 9:55 AM  
**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.

Hello fellow Commissioner's,

I am a resident of Don Pedro Island and have opposed the sewer since day one. There is no need and no proof of any environmental impacts to the island from septic systems. This is just the same old repeated effort by a private company to make money off sewer. There is just no need !!!

Please take into account how many people have written letters and attended meetings. The response is overwhelming that the residents do not want sewer and there is no need. The environmental impacts of sewer installation and possible future spills would far out way the benefits of installation. Not to mention the financial impact to residents who are already strapped from hurricane after hurricane.

Please deny the application. NOTHING HAS CHAGED SINCE THE PREVIOUS APPLICATIONS !!!!!!!

Thanks,

Roger and Michelle Zakrajshek  
430 Kettle Harbor Drive  
Placida FL 33946  
Cell 612-282-3435  
Email: rogerandmichelle7@msn.com

## Nickalus Holmes

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**From:** Ben Fertic <ferticb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2025 10:28 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**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.

[Hide Details](#) ▲

LATEST INFORMATION

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

Give Feedback

OUTAGE CAUSE

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

CUSTOMERS AFFECTED

**739**

EQUIPMENT

**Main power line**

TICKET NUMBER

**704**

TICKET CREATION DATE

**03/29/2025 04:55 AM**

## Nickalus Holmes

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**From:** chriscobourn1@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2025 11:18 AM  
**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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Good morning,

I live on Don Pedro Island and I am very concerned that the sewer proposal by Environmental Utilities is going to be approved. I cannot emphasize enough how awful this proposal is to the residents of the island. The outrageous personal expense for a sewer system that is not necessary is going to cause great financial stress to many residents of the island. Not to mention that getting on and off the island using the current ferry service is already challenging enough on a daily basis. The additional construction vehicles needed for such a huge undertaking is going to make using the ferry service substantially more difficult for residents. The disruption to our lives, the noise, the tearing up of our roads, and the added financial stress for an unnecessary service must be considered in your decision. I'm asking you to please DENY the application by Environmental Utilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Cobourn  
290 S. Gulf Blvd  
Don Pedro Island

## Nickalus Holmes

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**From:** Gagnon, Don <dgagnon@gagnonmngmt.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2025 11:47 AM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Cc:** Don Gagnon  
**Subject:** Environmental Utilities - Little Gasparilla Island

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Dear Commissioners,

My wife and I have been owners at Hideaway Bay Beach Club for 28 years, I also served as Board President in 2018-2020.

I am writing in support of the letter from our attorney, Nick Porter.

We believe that Hideaway needs to be included in discussions that would likely impact our owners, if not initially, certainly over time.

I understand that there has been much discussion and many concerns expressed.

I sincerely believe that it is time to make certain that all parties have a chance to weigh in on the current EU sewer plans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Don Gagnon  
Hideaway J-5

## Nickalus Holmes

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**From:** Eric Bush <eric8421@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2025 12:14 PM  
**To:** clerk@psc.state.fl; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Subject:** Comment on Docket # 20240032 -- The Proposed Project is Unlawful And Must Be Rejected  
**Attachments:** Eric Bush Comment on Docket # 20240032.pdf

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

Dear Commissioners,

On this record, approval of the proposed project would be unlawful under the Florida Administrative Procedure Act and under Florida Supreme Court Precedent. Fla. Stat. Ch. 120; *Cf. Floridians Against Increased Rates, Inc., v. Clark*, 371 So.3d 905 (Fla. 2023).

And it would violate the Florida and United States constitutions. U.S. Const. amend. V; Fla. Const. art. I, § 9; *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319 (1976).

As Governor DeSantis explained, "Strong private property rights are essential to a free society." But this project would unlawfully trample on the property rights of Little Gasparilla residents.

For that reason, it must be **REJECTED**.

My family owns a condo in Hideaway Bay on Little Gasparilla Island. After more than two years and millions of dollars of repairs, Hideaway Bay is finally approaching normalcy following Hurricanes Ian, Milton, and Helene.

But the proposed project would render Hideaway Bay once again uninhabitable. It would impose significant costs on homeowners who are already struggling from the financial impact of the recent hurricanes. And it would cause irreparable harm to the environment and the unique character of Little Gasparilla Island.

**All this for almost no upside.**

Accordingly, approval of the project would not be in the public interest. On this record, approval would be arbitrary and capricious and not supported by substantial evidence, in violation of the Florida Administrative Procedure Act. Fla. Stat. Ch. 120; *Floridians Against Increased Rates, Inc., v. Clark*, 371 So.3d 905 (Fla. 2023).

Additionally, because Hideaway Bay property owners did not receive adequate notice, approval of this project would violate the Florida and United States constitutions. U.S. Const. amend. V; Fla. Const. art. I, § 9; *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319 (1976).

Unlike with Ian, Milton, and Helene, we are not powerless to stop the consequences of this misguided project.

Please help protect the property rights of Little Gasparilla residents and **REJECT** this unlawful project.

Thank you for your consideration,

Eric Bush