

090189

State of Florida



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Public Service Commission

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-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE: May 27, 2009

TO: Dorothy E. Menasco, Chief Deputy Commission Clerk, Office of Commission Clerk

FROM: Patricia Brady, Regulatory Analyst IV, Division of Economic Regulation *pb*

RE: Docket No. 090189-SU, Application for original certificate for a proposed wastewater system and request for bifurcation in Franklin County by Water Management Services, Inc.

Please add the attached letter dated May 17, 2009, from Stephen G. Kearney to the correspondence side of the file. Thank you.

Attachment

cc: Stan Rieger, ECR
Anna Williams, GCL

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<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09		
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Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

17 May 2009

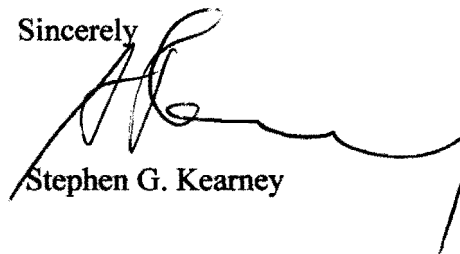
Dear Commission Members,

I am writing to you as a resident of St George Island concerning the application by Gene Brown to install a sewer system in the business district of St George Island.

I applaud Mr Brown for being pro active but I sincerely think his actions are premature and ill advised. St George Island may have a problem but I do not believe anyone knows definitively what that problem is! There has, to my knowledge, been no comprehensive investigation or study completed to identify exactly the problem. Without a proper investigation the success of any proposed solution is pure happenstance.

Mr Brown, I believe, is putting the cart before the horse. Please deny his request until definitive data has been gathered and made available to the residents of St George Island. Only then can we take the steps necessary to protect the environment of our Island.

Sincerely



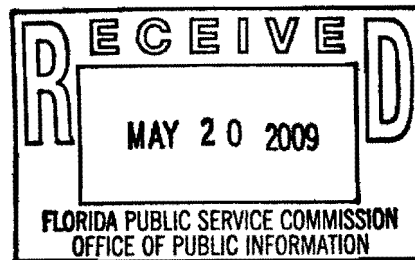
Stephen G. Kearney

Stephen Kearney
2223 Egret Point Road
St George Island, FL 32328

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OFFICE OF
ECONOMIC REGULATION

09 MAY 21 AM 9:51

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FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION



Ann Cole

090189

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2009 4:57 PM
To: Anna Williams
Subject: RE: {BULK} Docket No. 090189-SU

Thank you for this information, which will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Customers and their Representatives*, in docket 090189-SU.

From: Anna Williams
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2009 4:26 PM
To: CLK - Office of Commission Clerk
Subject: FW: {BULK} Docket No. 090189-SU
Importance: Low

Please include in correspondence side of the docket file for Docket No. 090189-SU.

**Thank you,
Anna Williams**

From: DLW2206@aol.com [mailto:DLW2206@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2009 4:17 PM
To: Anna Williams
Subject: {BULK} Docket No. 090189-SU
Importance: Low

Thank you for your registered letter of 5/18/09. I do not wish, at this time , to pursue the formal options available to me.

My concern is that there are other options available ,at less environmental impact, to the offending facilities AND the issue of the commercial wastewater system will lead to over commercialization of St George Island. And even future un-necessary expansion to existing residences.

Please keep my letter and this e-mail in the docket for review and send me a copy of the staff's recommendations.

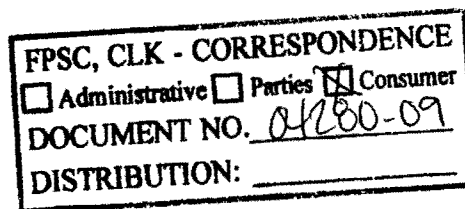
Thank you for the prompt and through response.

Donald L Watson
401 Mc Cloud St George Island Fl 32328

2206 Applecross Road
Barrington Il 60010

cell 847-767-5794

dlw2206@aol.com



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May 13, 2009

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To Whom It May Concern:

Due to the uniquely relaxing atmosphere of the area, the Bursi family has made St. George Island our vacation spot several times over the last ten years. We have decided to travel a farther distance from Memphis, TN than to the Destin area because the low density development creates a slow-paced environment that draws us to your island.

Regarding the addition of a sewage treatment plant, please consider us in your decision, as we hope your priority will be to keep the special atmosphere of the island from being spoiled by harmful types of development.

Very truly yours,

Richard C Bursi
Felicia P Bursi

Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Bursi
Memphis, TN

Copy: Marsha E. Rule; Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell

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09 MAY 21 PM 3: 04
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CLERK

B Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bursi
2828 Midway Cove
Germantown, TN 38108

MAY 13 2009

PETITION TO FURTHER EXPLORE SGI CENTRALIZED WATER SYSTEM

"We, the undersigned, ask the Public Service Commission to:

- NOT grant Water Management Services Inc. a certificate to build and operate a centralized sewer system on St. George Island, FL. It is too premature. Much water testing and study needs to be done by Franklin County to determine the source and the best solution to resolve its wastewater problems. Also, by solving one problem, a centralized system will create many other problems for Franklin County.
- Disqualify Water Management Services' application because it is not specific enough and many details are not stated. This is evidenced by the variances being requested in the application.
- Hold a Public Hearing in Franklin County in the evening when working people can attend and express their viewpoints."

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Sharon Y Powell SHARON Y POWELL	720 Buck St SGI	927-4096	sherry.powell@ embargo@mail.com
Charles Atwood CHARLES ATWOOD	720 Buck St SGI	927-4096	
Kathy Gilbert Kathy Gilbert	1475 E. Gulf Beach	927-2368	
George H Brooks George H Brooks	1475 E. Gulf Beach dr.		
Rose Walker Rose Walker	304 N. Kelly St.	927-2081	
SANDY ENGLAND Sandy England	880 E PINE	927-4305	
JUDAN LANFORD J. Lanford	45 BRIAN ST.	228-2383	
JO-ANNA DOLLOFF JO-ANNA DOLLOFF	1073 W. GULF BEACH	927-2539	

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Sharon Y. Powell
720 Buck St.
Eastpoint, FL 32328-2500

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Office of Commission Clerk
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Counselor,

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May 15, 2009

I believe that St. George Island is in danger of being irrevocably changed for the worse if citizens don't take immediate action.

On April 15, Water Management Services, Inc. (WMS), owned by Mr. Gene Brown, filed with the Public Service Commission (PSC) an application for a certificate to build a centralized sewer system on the island. The application states it is only for the commercial district of the island.

However, at a county commission workshop, Brown said he would be willing to extend it into the residential area, if requested. Obviously, there will be capacity built to allow this. It only makes economical sense that all businesses and homes eventually be placed on, or pay access fees for, the centralized system in order to pay for this very expensive endeavor.

This is very serious business, and time is of the essence. Even if you don't live on the island, but do live in Franklin County or own property here, this could affect you. If the island gets centralized sewer, it will open the island up for much greater capacity leading to higher density. This will provide developers with a reason to challenge our height limits, zoning density codes and Comprehensive Plan. With higher density, traffic will increase along with other infrastructure costs. With higher costs, it will require more taxes to pay for the added infrastructure. Who will pay for these higher taxes? The property owners and citizens of Franklin County through higher property taxes and higher millage rates.

In my May 3 letter to the PSC, I urged them not to grant WMS the right to build a centralized sewer system. I told them the recent restaurant septic systems' non-compliance issues are being used as an excuse to rush through a centralized system that will benefit WMS and not the island's property owners. I understand that one of the restaurants has already come into compliance with health department standards and all but one are well on their way to doing so. Therefore, there is no need to build a centralized system for this reason.

It is not in the public's best interest to build a centralized sewer system. There is no documented case I know of where one was built that did not lead to higher density and overdevelopment. I and many other residents and visitors were drawn here because of the uniqueness of low density, low height limits, the natural resources and seafood industry culture.

I believe that two issues are being incorrectly confused in addressing this very important matter: Swimming advisories off the island's beaches and non-compliance of various septic systems in the commercial district and in some of the island's homes.

It is a well-known fact that even if a centralized sewer system were built, it may not eliminate swimming advisories, because no one has yet been able to definitively determine the source of the pollution in the water. Until we know for sure, a centralized sewer may not eliminate the advisories but would only create more problems through increased capacity. This will spur pressure to potentially

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overdevelop the island and lead to increased storm water run-off and high costs to property owners for tap fees and to pay for the system.

Overdevelopment also brings other problems and costs, such as the need for adequate parking, increased law enforcement, etc.

By developing codes and enforcing them, existing septic systems can be brought into compliance with little comparative costs and risks. In addition, there are other options available to further reduce ongoing maintenance costs.

I have researched and studied the island's wastewater issues for over five months, and have learned of other technologies available which utilize modular/pod systems that may be a better solution for the island's specific problems. Modular systems would help ensure the island does not experience the pressure to increase development that a centralized system would. It has been said, "Build it and they will come." I am concerned this is exactly what will happen if any entity builds a centralized sewer.

The granting of a certificate to move forward with centralized sewer seems to be on an unusual fast-track under the auspices to help the commercial district. However, any thinking person knows that once a centralized system is built for the business district, it would only be a matter of time that the system would grow to encompass the entire island. This would be the only way that makes economical sense for anyone to embark on this endeavor.

This process needs to slow down so it can proceed in a very thorough and well-thought out manner. It is too premature to grant any entity a certificate for a centralized sewer system. Much study and investigation has to be done to appropriately address the issues. As has already been pointed out, we first have to decide what we are attempting to fix.

If WMS is granted permission to build a centralized sewer system, I believe the island, and entire county, will forever be changed for the worse. It will become just like other overdeveloped barrier islands and coastal communities. Its seafood culture and industry will also be potentially put in jeopardy, destroying many families' livelihoods and way of life.

I am confident county commissioners, residents and health department will take appropriate measures to identify the source of the island's water quality problems, as well as investigate ways to address current septic system non-compliance by some businesses and homes. We are all well aware of the importance to pursue improving the island's wastewater treatment and disposal in whatever way serves the best interests of all its citizens, not just a few.

If you agree with me, please write a letter to the PSC. They need to receive hundreds of letters in protest to be successful in stopping this.

Respectfully,



R. Bruce Barnes
Sabra A. Thornton
PO Box 1077
Eastpoint, FL. 32317
(850) 228-1108

090189

May 10, 2009

Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: application 090189

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MAY 13 2009
Tallahassee, Florida

Members of the Public Service Commission:

I am a homeowner and property owner on St. George Island. I have followed the problems we have had with contaminated/polluted beaches and non-compliant septic systems in our central business district, as well as having heard of problems with non-compliant rental properties. I care deeply about the safety and soundness of protecting the unique natural environment that we have on St. George Island and Apalachicola Bay.

My request is that you **decline or defer the application from Water Management Services, Inc. and Gene Brown** for a variance for a certificate to build a centralized wastewater system on St. George Island. I oppose this application because it is to me a classic example of the cart before the horse. I think there needs to be a lot more research before we authorize any applicant. And I do not think it is best practice for the vendor to do the research. The application is vague about the exact nature of the problem and why this firm should be given pre-emptive and apparently exclusive rights. It is my understanding that SGI has had numerous occasions where there are "swimming advisories" issued regarding our beaches. We do not, to my knowledge, know if the runoff from the commercial septic systems on the island is the cause of the pollution. I have reviewed DOH data on testing bay and Gulf sites in Franklin, Bay and other counties. It appears to me that those tests do not identify a single problem source. Further there has been no analysis of the level of compliance of *all* septic systems on the island to see if there is a broader issue than the commercial systems. But this application appears to preclude any other provider that might have a better solution.

While there may have been problems with various commercial businesses and other issues, to my knowledge, no one with relevant knowledge and authority has opined that 1) the problems are caused by non-compliant septic systems in the CBD on the island, 2) that the problems are not also exacerbated by residential septic systems nor 3) that there are no other solutions than that from Gene Brown/WMS. You do not know, based on comprehensive analysis and competitive proposals, that this is the best provider.

Again, I ask that you defer/reject this application. Perhaps in the end it will be the best. But let's not anoint this applicant until appropriate investigation and analysis is done and an open process to qualify the best solution and provider are done. I also note that our county commission has not endorsed this application. Also why is this being considered without local public input? To approve this application at this point eliminates the flexibility to know what the problem is and the best solution therefor. I think it is inappropriate and a violation of your fiduciary duty to the citizens of Franklin County to award a pre-emptive exclusive certificate of authorization without a fair and balanced process that considers all qualified providers.

Thank you.



Lee R. Sewell

Cc: Marsha E. Rule, Esq.
Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell
Box 551
Tallahassee, FL 30302

LEE SEWELL
RANDY SEWELL
1719 KINGFISHER RD.
ST. GEORGE ISLAND FL 32328

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090189

May 13, 2009

Members of the Public Service Commission,

I am a homeowner with a septic tank on St. George Island. Although each summer we have swimming advisories from time to time, I have never read of any real research to establish a culprit.

I understand that Water Management Resources proposes installing a sewer system in our commercial area even though it has not been established that septic tanks or the newer aerobic systems are creating the elevated numbers of e coli in our waters.

While I certainly want our gulf + bay waters protected from "Us," I do believe that this assumption that septic tanks are bad + the source of the problem is presumptuous. Again the public has not been made aware of any scientific evidence to indicate the need to disrupt the island with installation of a sewer system.

In short we need #1 scientific research to establish the one or more culprits + #2 a solution to address these single or varied contaminants.

Gloria Hunt Deison
1311 Peacefield Place
Tallahassee, FL 32308

TAL
-14

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I urge you to vote against Water
Management Reserves premature solution
to an ill-defined problem.

Thank you,
Gloria Hunt Nelson

cc. Marsha Rule, Esq.
Rutledge Garcia & Powell

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May 13, 2009

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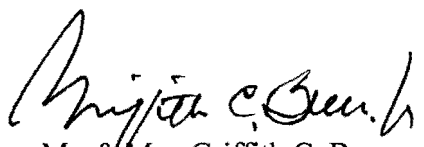
To Whom It May Concern:

We bought condos on Perdido Key because of the low density and supposedly good legislative protection of that low population density.

Over the next 30 years, politicians have changed density requirements in favor of developers and today, the key is covered with high-rise buildings and traffic. We looked for a new venue and found St. George Island.

Please consider what a rare place St. George Island is when allowing sewage treatment that fosters development.

Very truly yours,



Mr. & Mrs. Griffith C. Burr
Memphis, TN

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Copy: Marsha E. Rule; Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell

MR. GRIFFITH C. BURR, JR.
331 Inkberry Ln.
Memphis, TN 38117

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1508 East Gulf Beach Drive
St. George Island, Florida

And

858 Springdale Road, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30306

09 MAY 18 AM 7:00
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

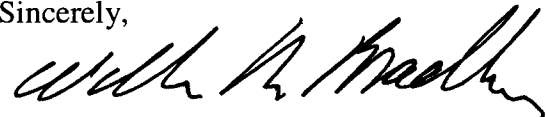
Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

May 12, 2009

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have been home-owners on St. George, Island since 1987, and we are looking forward to retiring there. I am distressed to hear that there is again consideration of installing a centralized sewer system on the Island. The charm of St. George Island is the lack of density, and the lack of high rise buildings. The Island caters to, and is perfect for, family vacations in an unspoiled area. Increased density, which would be an inevitable result of a centralized sewer system, would irrevocably change the character of the Island, and the understanding that so many residents had when we built our homes there. I urge you to reject this proposal.

Sincerely,



William H. Bradley

cc: Marsha E. Rule, Esq.
Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell
P.O. Box 551
Tallahassee, FL 32302

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Office of Commission Clerk
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There is currently an effort to start the permitting process for the construction of a centralized sewer system on St. George Island, Florida. Since the PSC is a critical cog in the process, I want to state that there are other steps that need to take place first before the PSC hears any petitions to build this centralized system.

We, the island residents and business owners, realize there are problems with the current system of treatment, be it by businesses or residential homes. Identification of the sources of the problems need to be determined by professional experts, who have the experience and technology available to do the testing and specify what exactly the problem sources are and recommend possible solutions, thus negating the necessity for a centralized sewer system.

The major sewer problems seem to occur during the height of our tourist season, when normal occupancy per rental house exceed the original intended house septic system. i.e., too many people for the original system to adequately process the household waste.

I would encourage the PSC to reject any application for a centralized sewer system at the current time.

Do not allow a system which would serve a few, destroy a pristine area and possibly, a fishing industry, should a catastrophic event occur because the system ceased to function.

Sincerely,

Duke Douglas
Duke Douglas



Mr. Duke Douglas
609 W. Bayshore Dr.
Eastpoint, FL 32328

cc: Marsha E. Rule

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1228 Sandy Lane
St George Island, FL 32328
May 12, 2009

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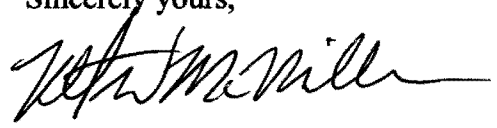
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Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As residents of St George Island, we would like to express our opposition to the installation of a central wastewater treatment plant on St George. We believe that the presence of such a plant would encourage unrestrained growth on our fragile barrier island that would be counterproductive to the purpose of preventing damage to Apalachicola Bay and the local fishing industry. With a central facility a failure is multiplied by the number of users of the system, but a single-family septic tank will cause a proportionately smaller problem. Instead of a central facility, we recommend that existing regulations regarding aerobic septic systems be more strictly enforced.

Thanks for considering our concerns on this issue. We would very much like to keep St George Island in its existing pristine condition and preserve the seafood industry that has been the livelihood for generations of our local residents.

Sincerely yours,



Robert W McMillan, Ph.D.



Ann S McMillan, RN

cc: Marsha E Rule
Rutledge, Ecenia, and Purnell
PO Box 551
Tallahassee, FL 32302

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CAROLINE T. WELER
2947H STREET
APALACHICOLA, FL 32320

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Sincerely,
Caroline Weler
Please make a responsible decision on this issue. Rapidly set a new precedent for future growth.

Should be lining on the edge. World, but none (that is a dream, of course) should be lining on the edge. Please make a responsible decision on this issue. Rapidly set a new precedent for future growth.

A centralized water/sewer system will open that door and create a situation that will benefit a few investors and real estate business people at the expense of many. We are still reaping the "benefits" of the last growth cycle. Growth should be away from the coast. Our costs should be wonderful destinations for visitors from all over the world, but none (that is a dream, of course) should be lining on the edge.

I am one of the fortunate ones who has moved to Apalachicola in 1990. Much has changed in Franklin county since that time, mostly on St George Island. While I don't want to selfishly close the door on growth, I believe it is now a critical time to make decisions that will save the Bay for all who would visit this unique area, as a living museum of the State of Florida. Lining here, build- ing more and more homes on the barrier islands, particularly in light of what we know about storms, is foolish. And dangerous.

To: The Public Service Commission
I am one of the fortunate ones who has moved to Apalachicola in 1990. Much has changed in Franklin county since that time, mostly on St George Island. While I don't want to selfishly close the door on growth, I believe it is now a critical time to make decisions that will save the Bay for all who would visit this unique area, as a living museum of the State of Florida. Lining here, building more and more homes on the barrier islands, particularly in light of what we know about storms, is foolish. And dangerous.

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Florida Public Service Commission

2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard

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Dear Members of the Florida Public Service Commission:

As residents and property owners on St. George Island, FL, we are strongly opposed to the application filed by Water Management Services for a certificate to build a centralized sewer system on the island. We do not believe that sufficient studies have been performed on the water quality.

The building of a centralized sewer system can bring over development to the island, which is definitely not desired by the residents or those who vacation here. Over development would then cause more water quality issues.

Please deny the request by Water Management Services at this time.

Sincerely,



Eric and Sherri Roberts

1173 West Gulf Beach Drive

St. George island, FL 32328

Cc:

Marsha E. Rule, Esq.

Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell

P. O. Box 551

Tallahassee, FL 32302

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Members of the Public Service Commission:

I'm writing to encourage you to deny Water Management Services (WMS), Inc. and Mr. Gene Brown authorization or a certificate to build a centralized sewer system on St. George Island (SGI), FL which was applied for on April 15, 2009.

My wife and I live on St. George Island (SGI) on East Pine Ave.

Although I am not fully informed on your commission's duties, etc, I do understand that you have the authority to grant WMS Inc permission to go forward in planning, designing, and financing a waste water treatment facility for SGI.

If you grant WMS Inc. a certificate to move forward on this health related issue then your commission must believe there is a severe and continual health problem on SGI relating to waste water emanating from homes and commercial institutions.

Professionally I am a biochemist and microbiologist and have been working with scientists from the former Soviet Union in the area of pathogens and severe diseases to animals, plants and humans. I also worked for 25 plus years in biotechnology some of which was in waste water treatment from farm animal production. This work presented me with the challenge of optimizing the treatment of waste water in very small volumes, without odors, and without open lagoon systems. The Japanese have been using systems like these for years because of their lack of open space and high density populations.

If there is a problem on SGI and I have looked at reams of data of water samples collected at 11 St East and West as well as from the Center of the island. There really isn't any indication that the center of the island is causing or is the point source of microbial contamination. I do understand that a restaurant or two have had problems or are still having problems but they have taken steps to maintain a healthy environment.

Therefore, I would like your commission to deny WMS Inc any definite certificate for moving forward until the problem is clearly defined and options to solve occasional non-compliance issues handled using good engineering and biotechnological practices.

Centralized waste water treatment facilities in addition to being expensive, can cause severe problems that will affect the island beyond the present point source from a restaurant or two. Although the centralized system is highly engineered it is the metabolism of a mixed colony of microorganisms that degrades the wastes, reduces the pathogen count, aids in clarification of the water. The bacterial colony can become unbalanced due to storms, electrical outages, chemical make up

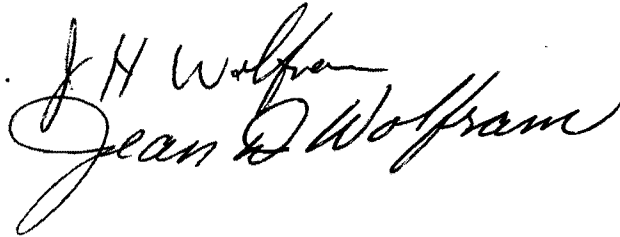
of the entering waste water, and a host of other variables. The island due to its elevation, and source of electricity as well as great swings in waste water production due to seasonal use of the island would make it difficult to optimize a waste water treatment facility. When a centralized system becomes imbalanced, non-compliance issues occur on a much larger scale than an individual restaurant's.

If the commission believes that SGI is starting to have problems then it is time to bring the community, and governing bodies together and to get experts in to discuss the problems and potential solutions. To my knowledge this has not occurred.

Once a large engineering effort that is required to build a centralized system occurs; the county, community and citizens have no other choices. Therefore, more information dissemination, and communication needs to be done in the early stages to make all aware of "why and what" is taking place. Presently the feeling we have is, SGI has a waste water problem, there has to be a centralized system built, WMS Inc is the company to save us. Please help clear this feeling by delaying the certificate or permit.

Thank you for your time.

James H. Wolfram, Ph.D.
Jean D. Wolfram
648 East Pine Ave.
St. George Island, Fl
32328

Handwritten signatures of James H. Wolfram and Jean D. Wolfram. The signature of James H. Wolfram is written in cursive and is positioned above the signature of Jean D. Wolfram, which is also in cursive and larger in size.

John Baird

From: "John Baird" <jfbaird@plantationcable.net>
To: <csanders@gtcom.net>; <wardshrimphouse@yahoo.com>; <bevin@franklincountyflorida.com>; <pinki@franklincountyflorida.com>; <noah@franklincountyflorida.com>
Cc: "Lee R. Sewell" <lrsowell@bellsouth.net>; "Gail M. Riegelmayr" <coachgail@gtcom.net>; "Micki Tanner" <micki@reynoldsplantation.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2009 4:36 PM
Subject: Water Management Services Application for Centralized Sewer System on St. George Island

Dear Board of County Commissioners;

We are the owners of 2120 Dolphin Beach Drive on St. George Island, Fl.

We would like to go on record to ask that Water Management Services application be denied. We think there should be adequate time for all parties to study the situation's causes and possible solutions before a determination is made on the proper course of action.

Thanks for assistance in this matter.

John F. Baird

Michelle K. Tanner-Baird

Owners of King Tanner Baird LLC

RECEIVED-FPSC
09 MAY 15 AM 8:38
COMMISSION
CLERK

John F. Baird
1281 Linger Longer Drive
Greensboro, Ga. 30642

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
 Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04780-09
DISTRIBUTION: ECRGCL

090189

RECEIVED
MAY 14 11:07:28

RECEIVED-FPSC
HANK GARRETT

09 MAY 14 AM 9:07

COMMISSION
CLERK

599 C.C.Land Road
Eastpoint, FL 32328
Phone 670-8103
wmshg2000@yahoo.com

May 9, 2009

Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Dear Friend,

Please accept my vote in favor of central sewer on St. George Island. In my opinion this is long overdue. Please grant Water Management Services Inc. the permit to build the sewer system, as well as assist in any way possible to proceed as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Signature

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04780-09		
DISTRIBUTION: ECR GCL		

090189

RECEIVED-FPSC

09 MAY 14 AM 9:06

COMMISSION
CLERK

- Ronald and Elizabeth Bence
- 1915 Smugglers Cove
- St. George Island, FL 32328
- May 12, 2009

RECEIVED
MAY 14 2009 7:20

Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

As residents of St. George Island we are writing to you to request that the Public Service Commission **not** approve Water Management Services's petition which is currently before you which requests that they be allowed to install a central sewer treatment plant on the island. Such an approach might be the right thing to do, but as of now noone knows whether that is the case or not. The situation has not been studied. Franklin County needs more time to study the reasons for its water quality problems and then determine the best course of action. It would be premature to allow a centralized sewer system on SGI which may solve one problem but create many others.

Furthermore, the application submitted by Water Management Services is not detailed enough and they should not be allowed any variances at this time. Before any application is approved, all details and specifics need to be clearly outlined. Therefore, the PSC needs to disqualify WMS' application.

Sincerely,

Ronald Bence

cc:
Marsha E. Rule, Esq.
Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell
P.O. Box 551
Tallahassee, FL 32302

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
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DOCUMENT NO. <u>04780-09</u>		
DISTRIBUTION: <u>ECR GU</u>		

090189

RECEIVED-FPSC

332 Cook St.
St. George Island, Fl 32328

5/13/09

MAY 14 AM 9:06

Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Fl
32399-0850

COMMISSION
CLERK

Re: 090189 Application Rejection Request

As a resident of St George Island, I request that the Commission reject the above cited application and hold a public hearing to allow citizens of St. George Island to express their opinions regarding a centralized sewer system for the island's "business district".

1. The application statement that "the adjacent waters (surf) have been closed numerous times due to high bacterial counts" is completely false. I am unaware that the surf has ever been closed.
2. The proposed system will handle 400 ERCs which is twice the size of the business area proposed to be served. Why is excess capacity being built into the plant if it is only to serve the downtown area?
3. Input by St. George Island residents was not solicited prior to this application. Only 6 or 8 businesses were contacted.
4. At the St. George Island's civic club meeting, Mr. Brown said that all water users would subsidize the sewer system. Why should all water users help pay for the sewer system?
5. The application does not specify what type or degree of "advanced wastewater treatment" will be provided. It does not address whether nitrogen and phosphorus nutrients will be removed. The application does not state how or where the sludge will be disposed.
6. The application does not address the discharge of 125,000 gallons per day on the sandy soil next to the Apalachicola bay. This treated sewage will have some impact on the bay's vitality.
7. Mr. Brown stated at the St. George Island's civic club meeting that the Florida utilities Commission guarantees him 9 to 11% return on his investment.
8. The application does not project sewer impact fees, usage fees, nor the purchase and repair of grinder pumps as required in the application.

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09		
DISTRIBUTION: ECR GLL		

9. There is no projected construction cost provided.
10. No operating costs are projected in the application .
11. It is not possible to determine the economic feasibility of the proposed wastewater project based on the information contained in the application. The applicant should present sufficient information to allow an independent determination of the feasibility.
12. The private wastewater system proposed is not eligible for state or federal grants or low interest loans, thus increasing user costs. A governmental sewer agency would not charge an additional 9 to 11% profit to its user cost. Consequently a privately owned and financed system will have higher user costs.
13. Citizens and property owners on Saint George Island are the people who should decide whether a sewer system is warranted, not an investment group.

My wife and I thank you for the opportunity to offer this input and request you deny the bifurcation request sought by Mr. Brown.

Very Truly yours,



Newt Colston

Cc;

Marsha Rule
Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell
P.O. Box 551
Tallahassee, Fl
32302

090189

RECEIVED-FPSC

Office of the Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, Fl. 32399-0850

09 MAY 14 AM 9:05

COMMISSION
CLERK

May 11, 2009

RECEIVED
MAY 11 2009 7:21

RE: PSC request for grant to Water Management Services of Franklin Co.

Please do NOT grant Water Management Services of Franklin County an approval for a central sewerage disposal facility.

Franklin County needs more time to study the reasons for its sewerage disposal quality supply problems and then determine the best course of action. St George Island does not need a centralized sewer system at this time which will create more problems than it solves. A centralized sewer system will lead to higher density which leads to more water resource problems, higher traffic problems, a greater need for law enforcement, and on and on. The county revenues are not in a position at this time to deal with these problems.

The sewage and water issue is mainly in the commercial area of St George and is not, in my view, an unsolvable problem for the businesses that are affected. Some have already solved their problem and others are being handled by the businesses there and they just need more time to resolve the issue.

As a homeowner on St George Island, I request that you do not grant Water Management Services a permit or variances for a sewerage disposal system.

Respectfully,

David Crenshaw

David Crenshaw
216 Kings Hwy.
Decatur, GA 30030-5226

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. <u>04280-09</u>		
DISTRIBUTION: <u>FOR GCL</u>		

090189

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09 MAY 14 AM 9:05

COMMISSION
CLERK

MAY 14 2009 10:17:20

May 12, 2009

Florida Public Service Commission
Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Application for Original Certificate for a Proposed Wastewater System and Request for Bifurcation by Water Management Services, Inc.

Members of the Public Service Commission:

We are writing to **urge you to deny approval** of Water Management Services, Inc.'s April 15, 2009 application to build a centralized sewer system on St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida.

The fact that some businesses' septic systems are not in compliance should not be used as an excuse to open the door to even greater problems.

A centralized system for the business district would only lead to an increase in development density, increase pressure to expand the system for the whole island, and ultimately lead to further degradation of water quality.

The residents of St. George Island are overwhelmingly against the proposal for a centralized sewer system and are the ones who will be most affected by your decision; therefore, we ask that our opinions play an important part in your decision-making process.

Respectfully yours,

Martha M. Gherardi
1667 E Gulf Beach Dr
Saint George Island, Florida 32328

Luciano Gherardi
1667 E Gulf Beach Dr
Saint George Island, Florida 32328

cc: Marsha E. Rule, Esq.
Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell
P.O. Box 551
Tallahassee, FL 32302

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09		
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090189

May 12, 2009

RECEIVED-FPSC

09 MAY 13 AM 9:40

COMMISSION
CLERK

05/13/09 10:17:19
COMMUNICATIONS

Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Dear Members of the Public Service Commission,

I'm asking the Public Service Commission to NOT grant Water Management Service application for a central sewer system on St. George Island, FL. Franklin County needs more time to study the reason for its water quality problems and to determine the best course of action.

I'm asking the Public Service Commission to conduct a Public Hearing in the evening in Franklin County to hear from the working people.

Thank you Public Service Commission for your help is this matter.

Sincerely,



Debbie Flowers
315 Nedley St.
P O Box 736
St. George Island, FL 32328

CC: Marsha E Rule, Esq.

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: ECR GCL

090189

Mr. Darryl H. Parkes

May 11, 2009

Public Service Commission

of an order that a certificate
to build & operate a centralized
water system on Sr. George chs.
not be granted to Water, Mt
Sevier, Inc. & to disqualify
WMS application because it's
too vague.

Also, would appreciate your
holding a public hearing in
Smith County in the evening to
open discussion.

Thank you for your consideration

Darryl Parkes

5117 Alex Way

Birmingham, AL 35215

205-856-1466

1009 W. George Dr

Sr Geo. chs, FL

32328

A47432

parkes22@bellsouth.net

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE

Administrative Parties X Consumer

DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09

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P Mr Darryl H Parkes
5117 Alex Way
Birmingham, AL 35215-4067
21



St. George Island Construction, LLC

301 East Sawyer St.
St. George Island, Fl. 32328
850-927-2351

Fax-850-927-2351

joe1@gtcom.net

090189

DISTRIBUTION CENTER
09 MAY 13 AM 7:21

05/11/2009

To The Florida PSC..

I am writing to ask that you do not approve Mr. Browns Application to install a sewer system on St. George Island... We, the residents of this island do not want a sewer system At this time without a complete study and all issues being in The forefront....

We do not want a individual To decide what we should have or not have....

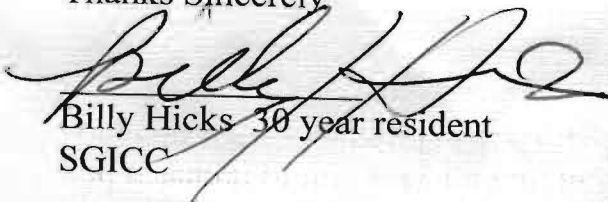
I think if a sewer system is installed later it should be owned And operated by Franklin County and not by a individual that just Wants it to make money from it...As the water co. he owns..

The Raffield petition is made up of mostly people that do not Live on St. George Island... Why they want it would be of interest to all the true residents of St. George Island...

Please deny the Application for a central sewer system by Mr. Brown until Franklin County can do its own investigation and research of this very important matter.....I am sure we can come up with a better plan and one that will suit all the people instead of a few investors that want it for obvious reasons\$\$\$....

A central sewer system will open up very large scale development on the Island, as it did on Panama City Beach which non of our residents want. The PC beach residents were also told how much it would help them And now its hard to see the water as you all know...After a few lawsuits it will be out of control...Don't allow this to happen to this still pristine place..


Thanks Sincerely


Billy Hicks 30 year resident
SGICC

cc-Marsha E. Rule, Esq.

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09 MAY 13 AM 9:38
COMMISSION
CLERK

FPSC, CLK, CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-69
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S.G.I.C.C. LLC
St. George Island Const. Co.
General Contractors
New Home • Remodel • Docks • Water Wells
B.J. Hicks, Owner
Phone/Fax: (850) 927-2351 • Email: joe1@gtcom.net
301 E. Sawyer St. • St. George Island, Fl. 32328

090189

David L. Allen
Marie E. Allen
1700 Kumquat Court
St. George Island, FL 32328
May 11, 2009

RECEIVED-FPSC
09 MAY 13 AM 9:38
COMMISSION
CLERK

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAY 13 2009 10:21 AM

Public Service Commission
Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Dear Sirs:

This letter is to object to Water Management Services application to provide waste water treatment on St. George Island by building a central waste water treatment plant.

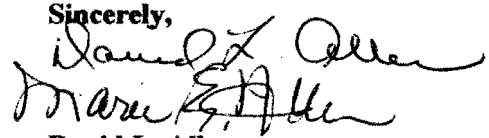
As residents of St. George Island, our compelling objection is that Mr. Brown's company has proposed a very expensive solution to a problem that has not been properly identified, and it is questionable that the solution he proposes is the best approach environmentally.

Before giving serious consideration to this application, the alleged problem should be proven and detailed with scientific evidence and not anecdotal evidence. A centralized waste treatment plant risks introducing many times the amount of untreated sewage into our bay than the current decentralized system in the event of a severe hurricane or high water event like Hurricane Dennis proved to be. Water Management Services should also be required to complete an environmental impact statement due to the environmentally sensitive nature of our bay.

We are also concerned that Mr. Brown is apparently proposing that current water customers assist in paying for the sewer system in the island's center, thereby raising our already high rate without providing us any additional service. Also, we see nothing that prevents Mr. Brown's company from spreading the sewer system throughout the island at his convenience and forcing every resident to eventually become sewer customers as well as water customers.

We feel St. George Island and Franklin County are being rushed into accepting a "solution" to a problem that has not been proven to exist. Please require Mr. Brown to prove the problem, and more importantly, prove that a central sewage treatment plant is the best answer for St. George Island and St. George Bay.

Sincerely,



David L. Allen
Marie E. Allen

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties Consumers
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: ECR GCL

090189

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09 MAY 12 AM 9:52
COMMISSION
CLERK

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May 11, 2009

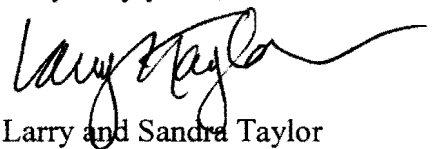
Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Dear Public Service Commission:

I respectfully request that the Public Service Commission:

- NOT grant Water Management Services Inc. a certificate to build and operate a centralized sewer system on St. George Island, FL. It is too premature. Much water testing and study needs to be done by Franklin County to determine the source and the best solution to resolve its wastewater problems. Also, by solving one problem, a centralized system will create many other problems for Franklin County.
- Disqualify Water Management Services' application because it is not specific enough and many details are not stated. This is evidenced by the variances being requested in the application.
- Hold a Public Hearing in Franklin County in the evening when working people can attend and express their viewpoints.

Very truly yours,



Larry and Sandra Taylor

1743 Kingfisher Ct.

St. George Island, FL 32328

ltaylor@knology.net

850-832-7199



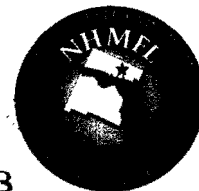
Cc: Marsha E. Rule, Esq.
Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell
P.O. Box 551
Tallahassee, FL 32302

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties ~~Consumer~~
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: EUR GCL

090189



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY NATIONAL HIGH MAGNETIC FIELD LAB



Dr. Philip N. Froelich, Francis Eppes Professor of Oceanography
Department of Oceanography, Florida State University

MAIL: National High Magnetic Field Lab, 1800 E. Paul Dirac Dr., Tallahassee FL 32310 U.S.A.
EMAIL: froelich@magnet.fsu.edu • TEL: 850-644-4331 • FAX: 850-644-0827

May 11, 2009

RECEIVED--FPSC
09 MAY 12 AM 9:51
COMMISSION
CLERK

To: Public Service Commission
Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

From: Philip N. Froelich

Re: WMS Application for Permit for Central Wastewater Treatment Plant on St. George Island

Please record my voice in strong opposition to allowing ANY central wastewater treatment plant on St. George Island (SGI). The original 1977 Development of Regional Impact (DRI) outlawed centralized wastewater plants on SGI in order to enforce by law low population density. High population on fragile barrier islands surrounding productive bays such as Apalachicola Bay is the principle source of human contaminants and nutrients that impact water quality. Virtually every scientific study has confirmed that the existence of central wastewater treatment plants leads over time to higher populations, more intense point source groundwater impacts, and ultimately to higher leakage of contaminated groundwater into the Gulf and Bay shorefronts leading to degradation of water quality.

If local septic and aerobic systems are indeed the cause of the local contamination (which is very uncertain), then the proper recourse is strict enforcement by the County of the state laws, regulations and rules governing these systems, not only for the restaurants in the commercial district, but especially those rental homes on the island whose aerobic systems were permitted Certificates of Occupancy by the County at a occupancy count fewer than these homes are advertised for rental and actually sleep when rented.

Respectfully submitted,

cc: Marsha E. Rule
Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell
P. O. Box 551
Tallahassee, FL 32302

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
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090189

Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

RECEIVED-FPSC

09 MAY 12 AM 9:49

COMMISSION
CLERK

05/12/2009 7:28

May 10, 2009

To the Public Service Commission:

Regarding: Water Management Services Inc.'s docket # 090189 for Application for Original Certificate for Proposed Wastewater System and Request for Bifurcation by Water Management Services, Inc

I have two requests. First is to deny Water Management Services Inc. (WMSI) request for a certificate and bifurcation, a necessary step to apply to the EPA for a construction permit of a sewer treatment plant on St. George Island, FL. My reasons and beliefs are below.

- **Lacking Procedure:** Robust analysis, testing, study and option evaluation for a long term viable and safe wastewater solution appear to be lacking.
- **Fast-track:** Water Management Services Inc.'s request within Franklin County appears to be on a fast-track that has not fully including the views of the residents and absentee property owners on St George Island. Additionally and specifically their application to you puts-off the rates and charges that is naturally a concern to the residents. Many supporters of the initiative are not residents of St George Island and their motives are unclear.
- **Cart before the horse:** WMSI's application contains no technical or engineering detail regarding how they intend to build and operate the plant. I am sure you know St George is a barrier island that is extremely sensitive to environmental and natural disasters. I say this because:
 - They have requested variances in their application and no indication of their intended solution, and
 - Hurricane Denis a few short years ago washed across St George Island taking out a small treatment plants that polluted the gulf water and closed the beach
- **Fairness and Competition:** It is fair to say that all solution options have not been explored fully and yet WMSI is pushing to move ahead without the support of the people most affected. Competitive solutions and bids would likely provide a broad range of ideas and modern engineering solutions. It would also ensure a

Sunday, May 10, 2009

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: ECR GCL

better financial outcome for the whole county and an auditable process. Granting WMSI's request for a certificate of authorization could give them an unfair competitive advantage.

My second request is for the commission to hold and lead a Public Hearing in Franklin County that is designed to expose the issues and set a clear and proper direction to address a real need with a lasting and secure solution. It will need to be held after the normal work day to ensure that most people can attend and you can hear a full array of viewpoints.

Gratefully,



Phil and Phleta Calandra (flpjc@yahoo.com)
957 W. Pine Avenue
St. George Island

Cc: Marsha E. Rule, Esq.
Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell
P.O. Box 551
Tallahassee, FL 32302

P. CALANDRA
713-13001K RD
MONTICELLO, FL
32344

090189

RECEIVED
MAY 12 2009

May 11, 2009

RECEIVED-FPSC

09 MAY 12 AM 9:42

✓ Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

COMMISSION
CLERK

To the Office of Commission Clerk,

Re: Central Sewer System Proposal on St. George Island, Fl

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: ECRGL

Please be advised I am writing to register my opposition to this proposal. I concur with many of the points in the attached article. Increased development and density will forever change our natural resources and coastal community and permanently upset the bay "agriculture" we all enjoy.

Since 1980, I have been an island visitor and property owner, and have resided fulltime in Apalachicola since 1999.

The following persons also wish to add their names to this written opposition.

Thank you.

Jan Thomas

Jan Thomas
P.O. Box 968
Apalachicola, Fl 32329

*We want a
Study*

1. Jan Thomas, P.O. Box 968, Apalach
2. *Ann Frie*
3. *Paul A. Thomas*
4. *Clifford Gray*
5. *Nancy Cutler*
6. *Landy Lutter*
7. *Candace Sprunger*

Time to act against central sewer on island

I believe that St. George Island is in danger of being irrevocably changed for the worse if citizens don't take immediate action.

On April 15, Water Management Services Inc. (WMS), owned by Mr. Gene Brown, filed with the Public Service Commission (PSC) an application for a certificate to build a centralized sewer system on the island. The application states it is only for the commercial district of the island.

However, at a county commission workshop, Brown said he would be willing to extend it into the residential area, if requested. Obviously,

there will be capacity built to allow this. It only makes economical sense that all businesses and homes eventually be placed on, or pay access fees for, the centralized system in order to pay for this very expensive endeavor.

This is very serious business, and time is of the essence. Even if you don't live on the island, but do live in Franklin County or own property here, this could affect you. If the island gets centralized sewer, it will open the island up for much greater capacity leading to higher



**GAIL M.
RIEGELMAYER**
Special to the Times

We need a study!

density. This will provide developers with a reason to challenge our height limits, zoning density codes and Comprehensive Plan. With higher density, traffic will increase along with other infrastructure costs. With higher costs, it will require more taxes to pay for the added infrastructure. Who will pay for these higher taxes? The property owners and citizens of Franklin County through higher property taxes and higher millage rates.

In my May 3 letter to the PSC, I urged them not to grant WMS the right to build a centralized sewer system. I told them the recent restaurant septic systems' non-compliance issues are being used as an excuse to rush through a centralized system that will benefit WMS and not the island's property owners. I understand that one of the restaurants has already come into compliance with health department standards

and all but one are well on their way to doing so. Therefore, there is no need to build a centralized system for this reason.

It is not in the public's best interest to build a centralized sewer system. There is no documented case I know of where one was built that did not lead to higher density and overdevelopment. I and many other residents and visitors were drawn here because of the uniqueness of low density, low height limits, the natural resources and seafood industry culture.

I believe that two issues

are being incorrectly confused in addressing this very important matter: swimming advisories off the island's beaches and non-compliance of various septic systems in the commercial district and in some of the island's homes.

It is a well-known fact that even if a centralized sewer system were built, it might not eliminate swimming advisories, because no one has yet been able to definitively determine the source of the pollution in the water. Until we know for sure, a centralized sewer might not eliminate the advisories but only create more problems through increased capacity. This would spur pressure to potentially overdevelop the island and lead to increased stormwater runoff and high costs to property owners for tap fees and to pay for the system. Overdevelopment also brings other problems and costs, such as the need for adequate parking, increased law enforcement, etc.

By developing codes and enforcing them, existing septic systems can be brought into compliance with little comparative costs and risks. In addition, there are other options available to further reduce ongoing maintenance costs.

I have researched and studied the island's wastewater issues for over five months and have learned of other technologies available which utilize modular/pod systems that might be a better solution for the island's specific problems. Modular systems would help ensure the island does

not experience the pressure to increase development that a centralized system would. It has been said, "Build it, and they will come." I am concerned this is exactly what will happen if any entity builds a centralized sewer.

The granting of a certificate to move forward with centralized sewer seems to be on an unusual fast-track under the auspices to help the commercial district. However, any thinking person knows that once a centralized system is built for the business district, it would only be a matter of time that the system would grow to encompass the entire island. This would be the only way that makes economical sense for anyone to embark on this endeavor.

This process needs to slow down so it can proceed in a very thorough and well-thought out manner. It is too premature to grant any entity a certificate for a centralized sewer system. Much study and investigation has to be done to appropriately address the issues. As has already been pointed out, we first have to decide what we are attempting to fix.

If WMS is granted permission to build a centralized sewer system, I believe the island, and entire county, will forever be changed for the worse. It will become just like other overdeveloped barrier islands and coastal communities. Its seafood culture and industry will also be potentially put in jeopardy, destroying many families' livelihoods and way of life.

I am confident county commissioners, residents

and health department will take appropriate measures to identify the source of the island's water quality problems, as well as investigate ways to address current septic system non-compliance by some businesses and homes. We are all well aware of the importance of improving the island's wastewater treatment and disposal in whatever way serves the best interests of all its citizens, not just a few.

If you agree with me, please write a letter to the PSC. They need to receive hundreds of letters in protest to be successful in stopping this. Feel free to use all or part of my letter that I summarized above. You can also draft one letter and ask people to sign it as a petition.

Citizens have 30 days from the date of filing to protest the granting of the certificate to WMS. Therefore, the PSC needs to hear from people no later than May 15.

The PSC needs to receive snail mail letters to the Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850. A copy of the letters also needs to be sent to the attorney representing WMS: Marsha E. Rule, with Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell, P.O. Box 551, Tallahassee, FL 32302.

Please write the PSC and help me preserve and protect the island and our special way of life. Ask your family, friends and neighbors to also write the PSC. We only have until May 15.

Gail M. Riegelmayor is a St. George Island resident.

RECEIVED-FPSC
09 MAY 12 AM 9:42
COMMISSION
CLERK

Carol Talley
972 E. Pine Avenue
Saint George Island, FL 32328

090189
RECEIVED
MAY 12 2009

May 8, 2009

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties / Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: EUR GCL

Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Subject: Request to decline authorization for centralized sewer on Saint George Island

Members of the Public Service Commission,

In the next few weeks, you will be considering a request from Water Management Services, Inc. to build a centralized sewer system for the business district on Saint George Island. I urge you to vote "no" to this request. As a resident of Saint George Island, I do not believe that a centralized sewer system is in the best interest of the residents of Saint George Island.

Water Management Services, Inc. is proposing a centralized sewer system under the guise of addressing an issue with local businesses (i.e., restaurants) creating waste water runoff which is causing bacteria in the Gulf which is subsequently leading to "swimming advisories". The fact is that there has been no in-depth study to determine the source of the bacteria and that it is more likely that Water Management Services is trying to find a new way to make money rather than caring about any problem that exists in the Gulf of Mexico.

As a resident of Saint George Island, I am concerned about how a centralized sewer system will affect my pocketbook and my quality of life. Financially, I believe that the residents of Saint George Island will end up paying some portion of the cost of a centralized sewer system even if it is proposed to be "only for the business district." Furthermore, I believe that the value of my house will eventually fall because a centralized sewer system inevitably leads to higher density and higher density (i.e., increased height limits, zoning changes, traffic, etc.) will be the ruination of this island.

From a quality of life perspective, Saint George Island is currently renowned for its beauty and solitude. What will happen to that beauty and solitude when the sewer system opens the island up to higher density and unrestrained development? How will you be able to see the beauty when high rise hotels/condominiums block your view of the beaches? How will the beauty shine through when McDonald's or its competitor light up the corner? Why ruin one of the last unspoiled places on Earth?

I know that this sounds melodramatic but it is not. This is how it all starts - and once it has started there is no turning back.

I am asking you **NOT** to grant Water Management Services the approval to build a centralized sewer system on Saint George Island. There is no justification for a centralized sewer system on Saint George Island. The source of our "swimming advisory" problem is unknown. (Carrabelle, FL has a central sewer system and they are currently having "swimming advisories".)

I understand that there is no documented case where a central sewer system was built and it did not lead to higher density and over-development.

I am not a "political person" but this is something that I have to speak out about. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Talley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'C'.

Carol Talley

Phone: 850-927-3477

E-mail: Carol.Talley@yahoo.com

CC: Franklin County Board of Commissioners

CC: Marsha E. Rule, Esq.

090189



Collins Realty Inc
60 East Gulf Beach Drive
St. George Island, Florida 32328
Business (850) 927-3100
Fax (850) 927-2360
E-Mail sales@century21collinsrealty.com
Website www.century21collinsrealty.com

RECEIVED-FPSC
09 MAY 12 AM 9:40
COMMISSION
CLERK

RECEIVED
MAY 12 11 05 AM '09

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties ~~Consumer~~
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: _____

May 10, 2009
Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

RE: Objection to Application for Original Certificate for a Proposed Wastewater System
St. George Island, FL (Copy Attached)

Dear Sir or Madame:

This letter is to state my objection to the above referenced application. Additional study needs to be done to determine what is causing the beach closings at St. George. We first need to determine what the problem is before we begin a costly solution. To my knowledge, no study has ever been performed on Little St. George to see if the water quality there is any different than St. George.

Sincerely,

Richard Watson

Cc: Marsha Rule, Esq.

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE
FOR A PROPOSED WASTEWATER SYSTEM**

Notice is hereby given on the 15th day of April, 2009, pursuant to Section 367.071, Florida Statutes, of the Application of Water Management Services, Inc. for an original certificate for a proposed wastewater system to provide wastewater service to the following described territory in Franklin County, Florida:

That portion of land on St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida, located in Section 29, Township 9 South, Range 6 West, lying between the Gulf of Mexico on the South and Apalachicola Bay on the North, bordered by 3d Street West on the West and 3rd Street East on the east, and located within Unit 1, St. George Island Gulf Beach as recorded in Plat Book 2, page 7, Public Records of Franklin County, Florida (also referred to as the "commercial section" of St. George Island). A more detailed description may be obtained from Water Management Services, Inc. at its address and telephone number listed below.

Any objections to the Application must be made in writing and filed within 30 days from the date of this Notice with the Office of Commission Clerk:

Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

with a copy sent at the same time to counsel for Water Management Services, Inc.:

Marsha E. Rule, Esq.
Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell P.A.
P. O. Box 551
Tallahassee, Florida 32302.

The objection must state the grounds for the objection with particularity.

Water Management Services, Inc.
250 John Knox Road
Suite 4
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 668-6103

Ruth Nettles

From: Ruth Nettles
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2009 2:06 PM
To: Anna Williams
Cc: Stan Rieger; Pat Brady
Subject: RE: 090189

Thank you very much, Anna.

Ruth

From: Anna Williams
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2009 1:56 PM
To: Ruth Nettles
Cc: Stan Rieger; Pat Brady
Subject: RE: 090189

After receiving this letter yesterday, I called Mr. Watson. He does want to request a formal hearing, but I don't think this letter is sufficient to do so. He said he would send in another letter indicating his formal objection and seeking a hearing as per my instruction.

In short, this is not an objection. Please place in consumer correspondence. Thanks!

Anna

From: Ruth Nettles
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2009 1:34 PM
To: Anna Williams
Cc: Stan Rieger; Pat Brady
Subject: 090189

Good afternoon,

Please review this attached document and let me know whether or not this is an objection. If so, I will have to place it with the documents in the docket. If this is consumer correspondence I will place it under DN 04280-09.

Thanks for your help.

Ruth Nettles

Katie Ely

090189

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2009 5:05 PM
To: Katie Ely
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole; Curtis Williams
Subject: FW: To CLK wastewater system for St. George protest

Please add to docket file 090189

-----Original Message-----

From: Consumer Contact
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2009 2:36 PM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject: To CLK wastewater system for St. George protest

-----Original Message-----

From: Webmaster
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2009 11:00 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: FW: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2009 10:35 AM
To: Webmaster
Cc: rdgc@iquest.net
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: robin cooper
Company:
Primary Phone: 8509273658
Secondary Phone: 3172016590
Email: rdgc@iquest.net

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties ~~X~~ Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: ECR GCL

Response requested? Yes
CC Sent? Yes

Comments:

Re; Gene Brown/Water Management Service's application to the Florida Public Service Commission to provide an island-wide central wastewater treatment system for St George island.

As an individual owner I see the following flaws in this application: 1) it proposes a vague solution to an undefined problem, 2) it is pre-emptive and excludes alternate solutions or providers, and 3) while the "press" has been that it is a proposal for a CBD system, it is in fact an application for a certificate for the entire island. there is inadequate factual info about the exact nature of the problem (polluted beaches, oyster bed pollution, etc.), the causes of the problems, if there are problems are they from the Island or maybe even from Atlanta, and the best solutions for any problems. I think the proposal by RiverKeeper to do the research and THEN solicit solutions and providers is more reasonable and practical. Define the problem before proposing then find the best solution. I am concerned that if this application is approved, we are stuck with what one vendor/person wants instead of a thoughtful and competitive solution.

Thanks
Robin

Katie Ely

090189

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2009 5:00 PM
To: Katie Ely
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole; Cheryl Bulecza-Banks
Subject: FW: To CLK Docket 090189

Attachments: FAX.TIF

Please add to docket file.

From: Consumer Contact
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2009 9:03 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject: To CLK Docket 090189

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: ECR GCL

From: NET Satisfaxtion
Sent: None
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: 614 252 5733, 1 page(s)

You have received a new fax. This fax was received by **NET Satisfaxtion**. The fax is attached to the message. Open the attachment to view your fax.

Received Fax Details

Received On: 5/10/2009 5:33 PM
Number of Pages: 1
From (CSID): 614 252 5733
From (ANI):
Sent to DID:

Duration of Fax: 0:00:48
Transfer Speed: 9600

Received Status: Success
Number of Errors: 0
Port Received On: RockForceOCTO+ Port 6



FAX.TIF (15 KB)

To Commissioners: FAX 1-800-511-0809

**Office of Commission Clerk,
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard,
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850**

Public Service Commission: Do not grant Water Management Services approval. Franklin County needs more time to study the reasons for its water quality problems and then determine the best course of action. It is too premature to allow a centralized sewer system on SGI which may solve one problem but create many others.

The application submitted by Water Management Services is not detailed enough and should not be allowed any variances. Before any application is approved, all details and specifics need to be clearly outlined. Therefore, the PSC needs to disqualify WMS' application. PSC needs to conduct a Public Hearing in the evening in Franklin County to hear from the people.

We have adequate personal home septic systems, which are inspected. This plan would add an unnecessary financial burden, to be forced to tie into Mr. Brown's sewer system, which would simply be an additional source of revenue for Mr. Brown himself.

It could be a good idea, ONCE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED, but put in place solely for the heavy use, commercial properties and multi-family condos/villas on the island.

K. Kerou 1815 Bayview SGI 5/10/09

090189

Public Service Commission
Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32329

RECEIVED-FPSC
09 MAY 11 AM 11:50
COMMISSION
CLERK

May 10, 2009

RE: Application made by Water Management Services

Dear Commissioners,

As a citizen of Franklin County and a permanent resident of St. George Island, I am requesting that you table or deny the application made by Water Management Services on April 15, 2009 for a certificate to build a central sewerage system on St. George Island.

I believe that the application is premature for several reasons which include:

No evidence has been produced to indicate that treating sewage with a central system in the commercial district will solve the problem of "swimming advisories" that are periodically issued throughout the island beach areas. The fact is that many homes are not in compliance with standard waste water treatment practices while only a few restaurants in the middle of the island are found to be non-compliant.

A central sewage treatment plant may not be cost effective if used for only a few businesses. Therefore, the water users on the island might be forced to bear the cost of this expensive type of resolution to the perceived problem.

A central sewerage system will eventually lead to changes allowing higher density on St. George Island. The ecosystem in this area is fragile and deserves the highest level of protection.

When Franklin County was an area of Critical State Concern from 1985 to 1992, a deliberate decision was made by the State of Florida not to provide central sewerage treatment on the island because of potential harm to Apalachicola Bay. Nothing has changed. The barrier island continues to be vulnerable in storm events. In a major storm event, a treatment plant could easily be non functional for days.

Before moving ahead with a central system, the County needs time for an environmental assessment to determine the best way to treat waste water as well as storm water.

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: FCR G U

By denying this application, the Public Service Commission will prevent Water Management Services from hastily moving ahead with a system that might not be the best resolution for sewage treatment on a barrier island.

Thank you for your consideration.

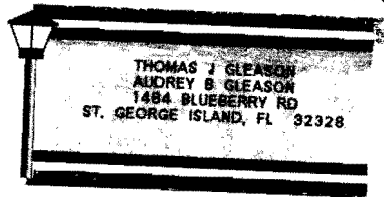
Patti McCartney,
2105 Blue Heron Trail, St. George Island

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patti McCartney".

CC: Marsha E. Rule
Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell,
P.O. Box 551
Tallahassee, FL 32302

5/8/09

WE ARE OPPOSED TO
CENTRALIZED SEWERS ON
SAINT GEORGE ISLAND FL



Audrey Gleason
THOMAS GLEASON

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: ELRGL

090189

Roger S. Crawford
P.O. Box 13573
Tallahassee, FL 32317

(850) 509-5190

RECEIVED
MAY 11 11:17:19

May 9, 2009

RECEIVED-FPSC
MAY 11 AM 9:21
COMMISSION
CLERK

PSC
Office of the Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

RE: Request to Deny and
Opposition to Water Management Services (WMS)
Application for Central Sewer System
On Saint George Island (Franklin County), Florida

To Whom It May Concern:

We are opposed to the application of WMS to provide a central sewer system for the business district of Saint George Island for several reasons:

First, we feel that any such application should be initiated by the Franklin County Commission and feel that it is an affront to the people of Franklin County for WMS to rush in to apply and hopefully "corner the market" on this idea. The people and the County Commission need to be heard.

Second, there is no need for a central sewer system. A few restaurants who are not keeping their septic tank systems and drain fields up to standards does not constitute a crisis or demand for a central sewer system.

I am the president of the 20 Cottages at Boardwalk Place, a/k/a the "Skinny Minis" or "Shotgun Houses", and I own one of these homes at 112 E. Gorrie Drive.

All the other "Shotgun Houses" on the gulf have their own septic tanks and drain fields which operate up to standards with no failures. All of the "Shotgun Houses" are in the commercial district and zoned C-4.

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties ~~X~~ Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: ECR GCU

The association of our 20 homes has two master drain fields ... one on E. Gorrie Drive and one on Gulf Beach Drive. We have operated since day one without failure of any sort. We constantly monitor, upgrade and maintain or repair our system. We have just received a new permit from the State to renovate and upgrade our system, which we will be doing shortly. As always, the repairs will be done professionally, with the best equipment and parts and the latest technology.

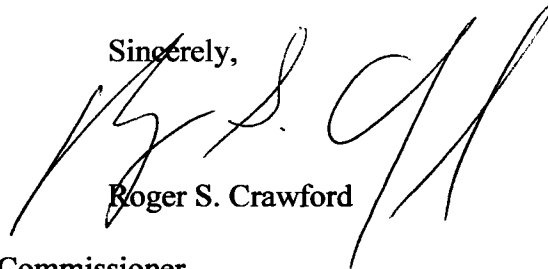
We are good stewards of our system and take this responsibility very seriously.

We do not need or want a central sewer system and do not want one at this time or in the foreseeable future.

The problem on Saint George Island is that a very small group of folks are not maintaining their systems and/or keeping them up to standards ... mainly 3 or 4 restaurants.

We respectfully ask that you deny the WMS application and then await further instructions from the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners.

Sincerely,



Roger S. Crawford

Cc: Pinki Jackel, County Commissioner
Franklin County

WMS
Marsha E. Rule
c/o Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell
P.O. Box 551
Tallahassee, FL 32302

Gail M. Riegelmayr
1471 E. Gulf Beach Drive
St. George Island, FL 32328

040187

1172 West Gulf Beach Drive
St. George Island, FL 32328

RECEIVED-FPSC

May 7, 2009

09 MAY 11 AM 9:26

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAY 11 2009 7:47

Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850
Members of the Public Service Commission:

COMMISSION
CLERK

DO NOT grant Water Management Services, Inc. and Mr. Gene Brown authorization or a certificate to build a centralized sewer system on St. George Island (SGI), FL which was applied for on April 15, 2009..

Recent restaurant septic systems[] non-compliance issues are being used as an excuse to rush through a centralized system that will only benefit Mr. Brown. One of the restaurants has already come into compliance with Department of Health standards. There is no need to build a centralized system for this reason.

It is NOT in the public[]s best interest to build a centralized sewer system. There is no documented case of where one was built that did not lead to higher density and over-development. SGI and Franklin County are special places. Visitors are drawn here because of the uniqueness of low density, low height limits, the natural resources and seafood industry culture.

The granting of a certificate to move forward with centralized sewer on SGI seems to be on a very fast-track under the auspices to help the commercial district. Any thinking person knows that once a centralized system is built for the business district, it would only be a matter of time that the system would grow to include the entire island. This would be the only way that makes economical sense for anyone to embark on this endeavor. There is no logical reason to grant a certificate at this time.

Please deny Water Management Services, Inc. its request. This process needs to slow down so it can proceed in a well-thought out manner. It is premature to grant any entity a certificate for a centralized sewer system on SGI.

If Water Management Services, Inc. is granted permission to build a centralized sewer system, SGI and Franklin County will forever be changed for the worse. It will become like other over-developed barrier islands and coastal communities. Its seafood culture and industry will be in jeopardy, destroying families', livelihoods and way of life.

Please be assured that the Franklin County Commissioners, residents and the Department of Health will take appropriate measures to identify the source of SGI[]s water quality problems, as well as investigate ways to address current septic system non-compliance by some businesses and homes. We are all well aware of the importance to pursue improving SGI[]s wastewater treatment and disposal in whatever way serves the best interests of all its citizens, not just a few.

Sincerely,

Philip J. Vitale
Philip J. Vitale
St. George Island Resident

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties ~~Consumer~~
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: ECRGC

cc: Franklin County Board of County Commissioners

Marsha E. Rule, Esq.
Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell
P.O. Box 551
Tallahassee, FL 32302

090189

1172 West Gulf Beach Drive
St. George Island, FL 32328

RECEIVED-FPSC

May 7, 2009

09 MAY 11 AM 9:26

COMMISSION
CLERK

2009 MAY 11 9:26 AM
COMMISSION CLERK

Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850
Members of the Public Service Commission:

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Recent restaurant septic systems' non-compliance issues are being used as an excuse to rush through a centralized system that will only benefit Mr. Brown. One of the restaurants has already come into compliance with Department of Health standards. There is no need to build a centralized system for this reason.

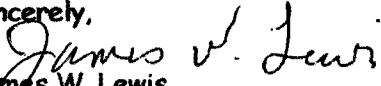
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Please **deny** Water Management Services, Inc. its request. This process needs to slow down so it can proceed in a well-thought out manner. It is premature to grant any entity a certificate for a centralized sewer system on SGI.

If Water Management Services, Inc. is granted permission to build a centralized sewer system, SGI and Franklin County will forever be changed for the worse. It will become like other over-developed barrier islands and coastal communities. Its seafood culture and industry will be in jeopardy, destroying families', livelihoods and way of life.

Please be assured that the Franklin County Commissioners, residents and the Department of Health will take appropriate measures to identify the source of SGI's water quality problems, as well as investigate ways to address current septic system non-compliance by some businesses and homes. We are all well aware of the importance to pursue improving SGI's wastewater treatment and disposal in whatever way serves the best interests of all its citizens, not just a few.

Sincerely,

James W. Lewis
St. George Island Resident

cc: Franklin County Board of County Commissioners

Marsha E. Rule, Esq.
Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell
P.O. Box 551
Tallahassee, FL 32302

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties ~~Consumer~~
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: ECR/GC

090189

RECEIVED-FPSC
09 MAY 11 AM 9:25

1172 West Gulf Beach Drive
St. George Island, FL 32328

May 7, 2009

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAY 11 2009 7:45

Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850
Members of the Public Service Commission:

DO NOT grant Water Management Services, Inc. and Mr. Gene Brown authorization or a certificate to build a centralized sewer system on St. George Island (SGI), FL which was applied for on April 15, 2009..

Recent restaurant septic systems non-compliance issues are being used as an excuse to rush through a centralized system that will only benefit Mr. Brown. One of the restaurants has already come into compliance with Department of Health standards. There is no need to build a centralized system for this reason.

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Please be assured that the Franklin County Commissioners, residents and the Department of Health will take appropriate measures to identify the source of SGI's water quality problems, as well as investigate ways to address current septic system non-compliance by some businesses and homes. We are all well aware of the importance to pursue improving SGI's wastewater treatment and disposal in whatever way serves the best interests of all its citizens, not just a few.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Vitale-Lewis
St. George Island Resident

cc: Franklin County Board of County Commissioners

Marsha E. Rule, Esq.
Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell
P.O. Box 551
Tallahassee, FL 32302

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: ECR, GCL

090189

RECEIVED-FPSC
09 MAY 11 AM 9:25
COMMISSION
CLERK

May 7, 2009
11 High Circle Way
North Oaks, MN 55127
lplidberg@msn.com
651-484-7077

Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

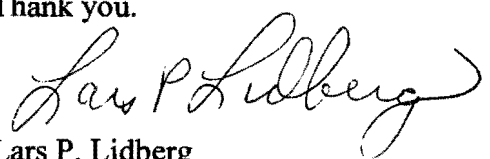
Dear Sirs:

RE: Request by Water Management Services, Inc. to build a waste water system on St. George Island.

I request that the Public Service Commission NOT grant Water Management Services Inc. a certificate to build and operate a centralized sewer system on St. George Island, FL at this time.

I frankly do not know if I am for or against a centralized sewer system on St. George Island. The point is that neither I nor probably any resident has the information to make an informed decision, and we have been given virtually no opportunity for input. This proposal needs more study which includes input by Franklin County and a hearing for the property owners of St. George Island and other concerned citizens of Franklin County before proceeding.

Thank you.



Lars P. Lidberg
Owner of:
1409 Evodia Court
St. George Island, FL

Cc:
Marsha E. Rule, Esq.
Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell
P.O. Box 551
Tallahassee, FL 32302

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: ECR GCL

5/8/09 090189

RECEIVED
MAY 11 11:07:08

To whom it may concern at the PSC,
re: St. George Island Waste Water Treatment

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen...

Please, please do **not** grant Water Management Services approval. Franklin County needs more time to study the reasons for its water quality problems and then determine the best course of action. It is too premature to allow a centralized sewer system on SGI which may solve one problem but create many others.


The application submitted by Water Management Services is not detailed enough and should not be allowed any variances. Before any application is approved, all details and specifics need to be clearly outlined. **Therefore, asking the PSC to disqualify WMS' application.**

Also asking the PSC to conduct a Public Hearing in the evening in Franklin County to hear from the people.
Thank you !

RECEIVED-FPSC
09 MAY 11 AM 9:25
COMMISSION
CLERK

Sincerely,
Julie O'Malley
Franklin Co. resident



 Ms. Julie Anne Omalley
116 24th Ave.
Apalachicola, FL 32320

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: ECRGL

090189

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09 MAY 11 AM 9:24

COMMISSION
CLERK

RECEIVED
09 MAY 11 AM 11:07:59

May 7, 2009

Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL. 32399-0850

RE: Public Service Commission

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a homeowner on St. George Island and have learned of the vote not to allow Franklin County their own representative during the decision process that will have a great impact on our community.

Since these decisions will determine the future of St. George Island, we ask the Public Service Commission to not grant Water Management Services approval. Franklin County needs more time to study the reasons for its water quality problems and then determine the best course of action. It is too premature to allow a centralized sewer system on St. George Island, which may solve one problem but create many others.

The application that was submitted by Water Management Services is not detailed enough and should not be allowed any variances. Before any application is approved, all details and specifics need to be clearly outlined. Therefore, the Public Service Commission needs to disqualify Water Management Services application.

The homeowners of St. George Island are asking for a Public Hearing to be conducted in the evening for Franklin County so that you can hear from the people that your decisions effect.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Pratt
Homeowner
2108 Seahorse Lane, St. George Island
949 W. Gulf Beach Drive, St. George Island

Cc: Marsha E. Rule, Esq., Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties ~~Consumer~~
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
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090189

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09 MAY 11 AM 9:24

COMMISSION
CLERK

09 MAY 11 11:08:02

1709 East Gulf Beach Drive
St. George Is., Florida 32328
May10,2009

Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

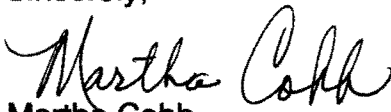
Subject: Centralized Sewer System on St. George Island

To the Commission:

As a resident of St. George Island for many years I would like to ask that the PSC not grant Water Management Services approval of the "Centralized Sewer System".

It seems that this proposal is being made in a rush, without any studies showing the cause of water quality problems, if any, or details outlined to solve them. This is an insult to the hard working people here, who are struggling during this financial crunch. I feel there should be public evening hearings so that the working people of this community can be a part of any decisions made. Since "they" will have to pay for them.

Sincerely,


Martha Cobb

Copy to:

Marsha E. Rule, Esq.,

Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell

P.O. Box 551

Tallahassee, Florida

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE

Administrative Parties ~~Consumer~~

DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09

DISTRIBUTION: ECR GCL

090189

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09 MAY 11 AM 9:23

COMMISSION
CLERK

STATE CENTER
09 MAY 11 11:00 AM

Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Fl. 323990-o850

My Husband and I are full time residents of St. George Island, Fla., ages 73 years old. We would like for the Public Service Commission to NOT grant Water Management Services Inc. A certificate to build and operate a centralized sewer system on St. George Island.

We feel that Mr. Gene Brown has prematurely put in his proposal before the Island Residents and Franklin county have had a chance to review it and understand the impact of his proposal .

We have no idea, nor do we feel the rest of the residents of Franklin County including the Board of our County Commissoners understand what the cost will be to the businesses on St. George Island and the residents of the island as well as all of Franklin County.

The application submitted by WaterManagement Services is not detailed enough and has already asked for variances, which we do not understand and feel should NOT be granted.

We would like the Public Service Commission to conduct a Public Hearing in the evening in Franklin County to hear from the people. There was a brief proposal presented to the BOCC at 9:00 a.m when the majority of people in the county were not able to attend due to employment requirements.

With the economic crisis facing so many of us, especially the large number of retirees on St. George Island we are concerned as to how this will impact our being able to afford living on St. George Island. The business district has a hard time staying open during the slow tourist season and do not understand who will bare the cost of the initial and long term probable expansion.

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: ECR GCL

Please allow the community time to study other options thoroughly by Not granting Water Management Services this proposal until further explanation of the proposal and investigation of other options are studied.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Donald I. Grinenko *Donald Grinenko* 5/8/09

**Donald I. Grinenko Donna O. Grinenko
1223 Watkins Cove
St. George Island, Fl. 32328
850-927-4925**

**cc. Marsh E. Rule, Esq.
Rutledge, Ecenia, Purnell
P.o. Bos 551
Tallahassee, Fl. 32302**

090189

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09 MAY -8 PM 4:27
COMMISSION
CLERK

**Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee Fl 32399-0850**

5/5/2009

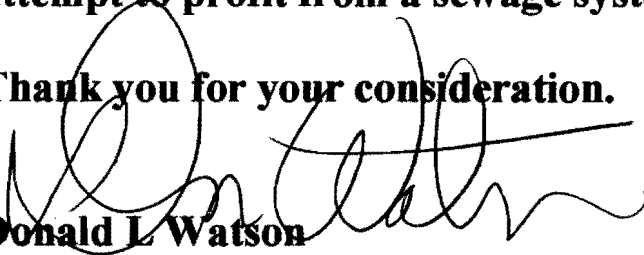
Subject" Consideration of a sewage Plant

I understand that Gene Brown has asked for authorization to build a sewage plant on St George Island for the commercial district. The impetus is some failed health inspections on septic systems for restaurants.

I would ask that you delay any decisions or turn it down, as there are other solutions by the violators that will not impact the Island. Over-commercialization would be the result with a tax burden that is NOT necessary for Franklin County and homeowners on St George.

Our home on 401 McCloud has an Aerobic system that is periodically inspected and is very adequate. I believe that is an attempt to profit from a sewage system that is not necessary.

Thank you for your consideration.


**Donald L. Watson
401 McCloud
St George Island Fl**

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04780-09
DISTRIBUTION: ECR GLL

**2206 Applecross Road
Barrington Il 60010.**

[Faint, illegible handwritten notes or stamps]

090189

Office of Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

RECEIVED-FPSC
09 MAY -8 PM 4:27
COMMISSION
CLERK

Members of the Public Service Commission:


Do not grant Water Management Services, Inc. and Mr. Gene Brown authorization or a certificate to build a centralized sewer system on St. George Island (SGI), FL which was applied for on April 15, 2009.

Please deny Water Management Services, Inc. its request. This process needs to slow down so it can proceed in a very thorough and well-thought out manner. It is too premature to grant any entity a certificate for a centralized sewer system on SGI. Much study and investigation has to be done to appropriately address the issues. As has already been pointed out, we first have to decide what we are attempting to fix.

If Water Management Services, Inc. is granted permission to build a centralized sewer system, I believe SGI and Franklin County will forever be changed for the worse. It will become just like other over-developed barrier islands and coastal communities. Its seafood culture and industry will also be potentially put in jeopardy, destroying many families' livelihoods and way of life.

 
James H Cobb & Maxine Cobb

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties/Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: ECR GLL

 Mr. James Cobb
1709 E. Gulf Beach Dr.
St George Isl, FL 32328

NOV 03 2009

090189

May 4, 2009

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09 MAY -8 AM 8:23

RECEIVED
MAY 7 10 11 AM '09

To: Office of Commison Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FI 32399-0850

COMMISSION
CLERK

From: Marilyn L. Bean
60 E. Gulf Beach Drive
St. George Island, FI 32328

In Re: Centralized sewer on St. George Island

I have been a resident on St. George Island for 31 years. I am writing to urge you to NOT grant Water Management Services, Inc. and Mr. Gene Brown authorization or a certificate to build a centralized sewer system on St. George Island, FI, which was applied for on April 15, 2009.

This process needs to slow down so it can proceed in a very thorough and well thought out manner. The residents are very interested in taking appropriate measure to identify the source of SGI's water quality problems.

This is a very serious situation and I believe that St. George Island is in danger of being irrevocably changed for the worse if a centralized sewer system is put in place.

Sincerely,


Marilyn L. Bean

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties ~~Consumer~~
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: ECR G.U.

090189

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09 MAY -8 AM 8: 22
COMMISSION
CLERK

May 5, 2009

2009-05-07 10:17:16

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties Consumers
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: ECR GCL

Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Members of the Public Service Commission:

I am a 16-year resident of St. George Island, asking you NOT to grant Water Management Services, Inc. and Mr. Gene Brown authorization or a certificate to build a centralized sewer system on St. George Island (SGI), FL which was applied for on April 15, 2009. I do not desire one, and there is no evidence that one is needed.

As a solution to occasional beach water contamination problems, Mr. Brown, and others, propose a centralized sewer system, particularly for the commercial district in the center of the island, with the potential to eventually expand its scope to the rest of the residential portion of the island. It's also proposed that all of us property owners pay for this system, whether we're yet hooked up to it or not.

I want to see more SCIENTIFIC study of what causes such beach water contamination, and more deliberation on what the solution might be to resolve the problem(s). It might just be as simple as enforcing the current laws regarding septic/aerobic system capacity. I don't want to pay for a system whose cure might kill the patient.

The causes leading to the occasional "closed to swimming" health advisories on Franklin County public beaches have yet to be determined. At Carabelle Beach, the contaminations were suggested to be caused by seagulls and dogs, thus proposing the County Commission post signs on the beach to clean up after dogs, and to avoid feeding seagulls. Other beach closings have been attributed possibly to wild and domestic animal deposits, Red Tide, or decaying aquatic vegetation. Still other causes for "public beach" closings point to too many humans wearing suntan lotion and "doing other things" while swimming in the water. On St. George Island, the speculation is that "closed public beaches" are the result of over-capacity use of under-capacity septic/aerobic systems, particularly in the commercial district, by restaurants.

We don't know if we need, or want such a system. If the residential and commercial districts complied with the laws and ordinances now in place, and the enforcement agencies (such as the Health Department) actually enforced in a timely manner, we would not have to consider the massive expense, noise, odor, catastrophic malfunction tendencies, and the "if you build it, they will come" density problems brought about by the installation of a centralized sewage system and treatment center. Someone needs to examine the malfunction histories of the sewage treatment plants already in place for the motel, and some gated communities on the island; malfunctions have resulted in hundreds of gallons of untreated waste water pouring into the Gulf after a hurricane or severe storm surge.

We don't need or want another so-called "state of the art" centralized system that will be more of a very expensive problem than a solution, especially when we're not sure what the cause of occasional contamination is, or what the solution should be.

Please consider this request to deny the application at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia A. Vest". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "V".

Patricia A. Vest
1499 E. Gulf Beach Drive
St. George Island, FL 32328

cc: Franklin County Board of County Commissioners

Marsha E. Rule, Esq.
Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell
P.O. Box 551
Tallahassee, FL 32302

090189

April 28, 2009

To: Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

RECEIVED-FPSC

09 MAY -8 AM 8:21

COMMISSION
CLERK

RECEIVED
09 MAY -8 AM 7:16

Fr: Mr. & Mrs. V.L. Bell
2136 Dolphin Court West
St. George Island, FL 32328

Re: Application for Original Certificate
For A Proposed Waste Water System
On Saint George Island

We have been residents of St. George Island for 5 years and strongly object to the above listed Application for Certificate for a Waste Water System contemplated for the center of St. George Island. Nowhere has compelling evidence come forth that this system is in any way needed or justified at this time. The Owner of Water Management Services, Inc. has alleged problems with gulf beach water quality, dangerous levels of e-coli and other vague "violations of public safety issues" that would be mitigated by the creation of the proposed Waste Water Treatment facility.

Unless and until such allegations of public danger be fully documented and corroborated by independent third party testing entities, then no such certificate should be issued. The current use of individual septic systems appears to be operating well within the parameters outlined by county codes and any individual violations can be handled accordingly. To spend millions on a system that is unneeded and for our part unwanted would seem inappropriate, and to burden nonusers with its costs, unconscionable.

Noticeably absent in the discussion thus far has been the potential for a failure of a waste water system such as this during and after a major hurricane and the catastrophic impact it could have on Apalachicola Bay. Systems such as this have the potential for failure and may discharge untreated sewage into the bay. As there can be no guarantee against this possibility, it would seem very rash to take on this type of risk under these circumstances.

Saint George Island is an important barrier island protecting one of the most pristine fisheries in North America. It provides income to many Franklin County families and assures the delicate balance of fresh and salt water that produces world class oyster crops year after year. It is inconceivable that the PSC would even contemplate anything that could harm this magnificent water way.



FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties ~~Consumer~~
DOCUMENT NO. 04286-09
DISTRIBUTION: ECR GCL

090189

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Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

09 MAY -8 AM 8: 21

COMMISSION
CLERK

Members of the Public Service Commission.

I'm writing to urge you to not grant Water Management Services, Inc. and Mr. Gene Brown authorization or a certificate to build a centralized sewer system on St. George Island (SGI), FL which was applied for on April 15, 2009.

I believe the recent restaurant septic systems' non-compliance issues are being used as an excuse to rush through a centralized system that will only benefit Mr. Brown, not the property owners on SGI. I understand that one of the restaurants has already come into compliance with Department of Health standards and all but one are well on their way to doing so. Therefore, there is no need to build a centralized system for this reason.

It is NOT in the public's best interest to build a centralized sewer system. There is no documented case that I know of where one was built that did not lead to higher density and over-development. SGI and Franklin County are very special places. I and many other residents and visitors were drawn here because of the uniqueness of low density, low height limits, the natural resources and seafood industry culture.

I believe that two issues are being incorrectly confused in addressing this very important matter. The two issues are: 1) swimming advisories off the beaches of St. George Island and 2) non-compliance of various septic systems in the commercial district and in some of the homes on SGI.

1) Swimming Advisories: It is a well-known fact that even if a centralized sewer system were built, it may not eliminate the swimming advisories. This is because no one has yet been able to definitively determine the source of the pollution in the water. Until we know for sure, a centralized sewer system may not eliminate the swimming advisories but it would only create more problems through increased capacity. This will spur pressure to potentially over-develop SGI and lead to increased storm water run-off and high costs to property owners for tap fees and to pay for the system. Over-development also brings with it many other problems and costs such as the need for adequate parking, increased law enforcement, etc.

2) Non-Compliance of Various Septic Systems: By developing codes and enforcing them, existing septic systems can be brought into compliance with little comparative costs and risks. In addition, there are other options available to further reduce on-going maintenance costs.

I have been researching and studying St. George Island's wastewater issues for over 5 months. In that time, I have learned that there are other technologies available which utilize modular/pod systems that may be a better solution for SGI's specific problems.

K. Lucella
WEFING'S MARINE, INC.
BOX 236
APALACHICOLA, FL 32320

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: EAR GCL

Modular systems would help ensure SGI does not experience the pressure to increase development that a centralized system would. It has been said, "Build it and they will come." I am gravely concerned that this is exactly what will happen if any entity builds a centralized sewer system on SGI.

The granting of a certificate to move forward with centralized sewer on SGI seems to be on an unusual fast-track under the auspices to help the commercial district. However, any thinking person knows that once a centralized system is built for the business district, it would only be a matter of time that the system would grow to encompass the entire island. This would be the only way that makes economical sense for anyone to embark on this endeavor. As has already been previously mentioned, there is no logical reason to grant a certificate at this time.

Please deny Water Management Services, Inc. its request. This process needs to slow down so it can proceed in a very thorough and well-thought out manner. It is too premature to grant any entity a certificate for a centralized sewer system on SGI. Much study and investigation has to be done to appropriately address the issues. As has already been pointed out, we first have to decide what we are attempting to fix.

If Water Management Services, Inc. is granted permission to build a centralized sewer system, I believe SGI and Franklin County will forever be changed for the worse. It will become just like other over-developed barrier islands and coastal communities. Its seafood culture and industry will also be potentially put in jeopardy, destroying many families' livelihoods and way of life.

Please be assured that the Franklin County Commissioners, residents and the Department of Health will take appropriate measures to identify the source of SGI's water quality problems, as well as investigate ways to address current septic system non-compliance by some businesses and homes. We are all well aware of the importance to pursue improving SGI's wastewater treatment and disposal in whatever way serves the best interests of all its citizens, not just a few.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Karen A Rudder
St. George Island Resident

cc: Franklin County Board of County Commissioners

Marsha E. Rule, Esq.
Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell
P.O. Box 551
Tallahassee, FL 32302

090189

May 6, 2009

Florida Public Service Commission
Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumand Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

RECEIVED-FPSC

09 MAY -8 AM 8:18

COMMISSION
CLERK

Members of the Public Service Commission:

As a full time resident of St George Island, FL, I am writing to ask you to not grant Water Management Services, Inc authorization or a certificate to build a centralized sewer system on St George Island, which was applied for on April 15, 2009.

I am opposed to this development for several reasons:

- **I believe that the development of this project is premature and is requested without sufficient research and resident scrutiny as to the need and impact on the community**
- **I believe that the development will position our community for the opportunity for greater density, development and potential opportunity for zoning changes and revised building height restrictions**
- **I am concerned that without further, detailed research on the impact of this development, that our local seafood industry will become at risk due to possible pollution of the Apalachicola Bay, which provides 90% of Florida's oysters and 10% of the entire United States oyster production**

I would ask that you reject this application at this time to allow the local population to have the opportunity to fully research all options and to develop a well thought out long term plan for our community.

Thank you for your consideration.



**Robert L. Pruitt
425 West Gorrie Drive
St George Island, FL 32328**

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: FOR GCU

090189

RECEIVED-FPSC

May 7, 2009

09 MAY -8 AM 8:18

Office of the Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

COMMISSION
CLERK

RE: St. George Island Wastewater Treatment

Dear Commissioners:

I am a seventeen year home owner and resident on St. George Island, Florida. Please let me state my **opposition** to an application filed by Water Management Services for a certificate to build a centralized sewer system on the Island.

It is my considered opinion that building such a system will bring unwanted density to the Island. Additionally, building such a system without any study to determine the source of pollution is, at best, a "shot in the dark" and unlikely to resolve any water quality issues. Clearly, there is an urgent need to determine the source of any water quality issues and determine the best technology to enable St. George Island to maintain its current density, which is clearly one of our most important assets.

Water Management Services' rush to construct a centralized sewer system on St. George Island should be denied until more information has been gathered and considered in a measured, rational manner. I urge you to deny the application currently before you.

Respectfully,

Jeanine K. Slagle
540 West Pine Ave.
St. George Island, Florida 32328
(850) 927-3250

cc: Marsha E. Rule, Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell

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Administrative Parties Consumer
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DISTRIBUTION: ECR GCL

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09 MAY - 7 PM 2:22
COMMISSION
CLERK

May 3, 2009

Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Members of the Public Service Commission,

I am urging you to not grant authorization for Water Management Services, Inc. (Gene Brown) to provide centralized sewer service for the central business district on St. George Island, FL. at this time.

I do not believe that such action will serve the public interest for the following reasons:

1. ~~We do not know the source of the pollution we are experiencing. We are located on a barrier island at the mouth of a large river that has a large population up stream. Could that be the problem? Who knows the definitive answer? Could the problem come from animal sources? Over capacity use of septic systems outside of the central business district? We need to factually identify the source and then deal with it correctly and efficiently. Perhaps more performance based enforcement of the existing systems is the answer. We just do not know at this time.~~
2. An **independent** environmental study needs to be done before any further action takes place on this issue.
3. History shows us that a central sewer system inevitably leads to higher density. This will lead more storm water run off problems and adversely affect the water quality, as well as the quality of life for the island residents.
4. What is the cost? Will the tap fees and ready to serve fees be forced on everyone? What are the tap fees, ongoing maintenance costs etc.? What if we spend all of this money and still have the problem?

Please slow this process down. We only have one chance to get it right. !

Thank you.

Laurie and Donny Rainey
St. George Island Resident.

cc: Franklin County Board of County Commissioners
cc: Marsha E. Rule, Esq.



1015 Macon Highway
Athens, Georgia 30606
www.TheSummitAgency.com

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties / Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
DISTRIBUTION: ECR GCA

090189

RECEIVED-FPSC

09 MAY -7 AM 8: 27

COMMISSION CLERK

RECEIVED
05 MAY -7 AM 7: 15

May 4, 2009

Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Joel Jay Phillips
P.O. Box 866
Eastpoint, FL 32328

Members of the Public Service Commission:

I'm writing to urge you to **not** grant Water Management Services, Inc. and Mr. Gene Brown authorization or a certificate to build a centralized sewer system on St. George Island (SGI), FL which was applied for on April 15, 2009.

I believe the recent restaurant septic systems' non-compliance issues are being used as an excuse to rush through a centralized system that will only benefit Mr. Brown, not the property owners on SGI. I understand that one of the restaurants has already come into compliance with Department of Health standards and all but one are well on their way to doing so. Therefore, there is no need to build a centralized system for this reason.

It is NOT in the public's best interest to build a centralized sewer system. There is no documented case that I know of where one was built that did not lead to higher density and over-development. SGI and Franklin County are very special places. I and many other residents and visitors were drawn here because of the uniqueness of low density, low height limits, the natural resources and seafood industry culture.

I believe that two issues are being incorrectly confused in addressing this very important matter. The two issues are: 1) swimming advisories off the beaches of St. George Island and 2) non-compliance of various septic systems in the commercial district and in some of the homes on SGI.

1) Swimming Advisories: It is a well-known fact that even if a centralized sewer system were built, it may not eliminate the swimming advisories. This is because no one has yet been able to definitively determine the source of the pollution in the water. Until we know for sure, a centralized sewer system may not eliminate the swimming advisories but it would only create more problems through increased capacity. This will spur pressure to potentially over-develop SGI and lead to increased storm water run-off and high costs to property owners for tap fees and to pay for the system. Over-development also brings with it many other problems and costs such as the need for adequate parking, increased law enforcement, etc.

2) Non-Compliance of Various Septic Systems: By developing codes and enforcing them, existing septic systems can be brought into compliance with little comparative costs and risks. In addition, there are other options available to further reduce on-going maintenance costs.

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 04280-09
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I have been researching and studying St. George Island's wastewater issues for over 5 months. In that time, I have learned that there are other technologies available which utilize modular/pod systems that may be a better solution for SGI's specific problems. Modular systems would help ensure SGI does not experience the pressure to increase development that a centralized system would. It has been said, "Build it and they will come." I am gravely concerned that this is exactly what will happen if any entity builds a centralized sewer system on SGI.

The granting of a certificate to move forward with centralized sewer on SGI seems to be on an unusual fast-track under the auspices to help the commercial district. However, any thinking person knows that once a centralized system is built for the business district, it would only be a matter of time that the system would grow to encompass the entire island. This would be the only way that makes economical sense for anyone to embark on this endeavor. As has already been previously mentioned, there is no logical reason to grant a certificate at this time.

Please deny Water Management Services, Inc. its request. This process needs to slow down so it can proceed in a very thorough and well-thought out manner. It is too premature to grant any entity a certificate for a centralized sewer system on SGI. Much study and investigation has to be done to appropriately address the issues. As has already been pointed out, we first have to decide what we are attempting to fix.

If Water Management Services, Inc. is granted permission to build a centralized sewer system, I believe SGI and Franklin County will forever be changed for the worse. It will become just like other over-developed barrier islands and coastal communities. Its seafood culture and industry will also be potentially put in jeopardy, destroying many families' livelihoods and way of life.

Please be assured that the Franklin County Commissioners, residents and the Department of Health will take appropriate measures to identify the source of SGI's water quality problems, as well as investigate ways to address current septic system non-compliance by some businesses and homes. We are all well aware of the importance to pursue improving SGI's wastewater treatment and disposal in whatever way serves the best interests of all its citizens, not just a few.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Joe and Fay Phillips

St. George Island Residents

090189

RECEIVED-FPSC

09 MAY -6 AM 10:36

COMMISSION CLERK

May 4, 2009
09:17:22

Office of the Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Dear Members of the Florida Public Service Commission:

As residents and long-time property owners on St. George Island, we are interested in the preservation of our community as a viable environment in which residents can live, and visitors can enjoy their vacation time. It is our belief that both the protection of our beaches and bay, as well as the viability of a small business district with restaurants and shops, are important to this community.

The disposal of wastewater on the island has once again become a topic of immediate concern. We have attempted to understand the current issue by attending public forums, including the County Workshop, talking with friends and neighbors, and studying the Application for Original Certificate for a Proposed Wastewater System by Water Management Services, Inc. and associated documents presented to the Florida Public Service Commission.

As a barrier island, St. George Island is an environmentally-sensitive community. We believe that much research and careful thought should be invested in any decision which involves major changes to island infrastructure. Such decisions inevitably will have long-term ramifications on our beaches, wetlands, and Apalachicola Bay.

The Application for Original Certificate for a Proposed Wastewater System by Water Management Services, Inc. does not in our estimation represent the research and careful thought that should go into this decision. The applicant requests a number of variances, which would allow for the evaluation of his request without much of the critical information required in the application. Reasons for the request for these variances appear to be based on time and money.

The applicant seeks to delay provision of information in the following areas:

- Projected cost of the proposed system and related capacity;
- Projected operating expense of the proposed system;
- Projected capital structure, including methods of financing construction and operation of the utility;
- Cost study including customer growth projections;
- Source of funding for the utility.

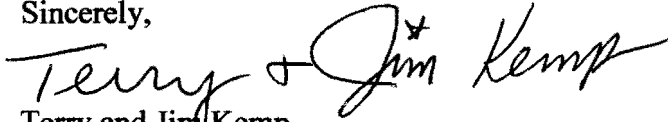
We fail to understand how the Public Service Commission can decide on the merits of this application without these key pieces of information relating to what the applicant proposes to

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build and how he intends to operate and fund the massive cost of such a system. The applicant should be required to invest the time and resources to fully disclose his plans.

We feel that the resolution of issues relating to wastewater disposal in a sensitive island environment warrants much more thorough exploration of the causes of problems and potential solutions than what is exhibited in this application. We request that the variances not be approved and that the application be denied at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry & Jim Kemp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terry and Jim Kemp
873 East Gulf Beach Drive
St. George Island, Florida 32328

cc: Marsha E. Rule, Esq.
Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell
P.O. Box 551
Tallahassee, Florida 32302

Stephen C. Reilly
Associate Public Counsel
Office of the Public Counsel
c/o The Florida Legislature
111 West Madison Street, Room 812
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1400

Gail M. Riegelmayr
1471 E. Gulf Beach
St. George Island, FL 32328
850-927-4245
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COMMISSION
CLERK

May 3, 2009

Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

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CONSUMER

Members of the Public Service Commission:

I'm writing to urge you to not grant Water Management Services, Inc. and Mr. Gene Brown authorization or a certificate to build a centralized sewer system on St. George Island (SGI), FL which was applied for on April 15, 2009.

I believe the recent restaurant septic systems' non-compliance issues are being used as an excuse to rush through a centralized system that will only benefit Mr. Brown, not the property owners on SGI. I understand that all but one of the restaurants has already come into compliance with Department of Health standards or are well on their way to doing so. Therefore, there is no need to build a centralized system for this reason.

It is NOT in the public's best interest to build a centralized sewer system. There is no documented case that I know of where one was built that didn't lead to higher density and over-development. SGI and Franklin County are very special places. I and many other residents and visitors were drawn here because of the uniqueness of low density, low height limits, the natural resources and seafood industry culture.

I believe that two issues are being incorrectly confused in addressing this very important matter. The two issues are: 1) swimming advisories off the beaches of St. George Island and 2) non-compliance of various septic systems in the commercial district and in some of the homes on SGI.

- 1) Swimming Advisories: It is a well-known fact that even if a centralized sewer system were built, it may not eliminate the swimming advisories. This is because no one has yet been able to definitively determine the source of the pollution in the water. Until we know for sure, a centralized sewer system may not eliminate the swimming advisories but it would only create more problems through increased capacity. This will spur pressure to potentially over-develop SGI and lead to increased storm water run-off and high costs to property owners for tap fees and to pay for the system. Over-development also brings with it many other problems and costs such as the need for adequate parking, increased law enforcement, etc.
- 2) Non-Compliance of Various Septic Systems: By developing codes and enforcing them, existing septic systems can be brought into compliance with little comparative costs and

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

risks. In addition, there are other options available to further reduce on-going maintenance costs.

I have been researching and studying St. George Island's wastewater issues for over 5 months. In that time, I've learned that there are other technologies available which utilize modular/pod systems that may be a better solution for SGI's specific problems. Modular systems would help ensure SGI does not experience the pressure to increase development that a centralized system would. It has been said, "Build it and they will come." I am gravely concerned that this is exactly what will happen if any entity builds a centralized sewer system on SGI.

The granting of a certificate to move forward with centralized sewer on SGI seems to be on an unusual fast-track under the auspices to help the commercial district. However, any thinking person knows that once a centralized system is built for the business district, it would only be a matter of time that the system would grow to encompass the entire island. This would be the only way that makes economical sense for anyone to embark on this endeavor. As has already been previously mentioned, there is no logical reason to grant a certificate at this time.

Please deny Water Management Services, Inc. its request. This process needs to slow down so it can proceed in a very thorough and well-thought out manner. It is too premature to grant any entity a certificate for a centralized sewer system on SGI. Much study and investigation has to be done to appropriately address the issues. As has already been pointed out, we first have to decide what we are attempting to fix.

If Water Management Services, Inc. is granted permission to build a centralized sewer system, I believe SGI and Franklin County will forever be changed for the worse. It will become just like other over-developed barrier islands and coastal communities. Its seafood culture and industry will also be potentially put in jeopardy, destroying many families' livelihoods and way of life.

Please be assured that the Franklin County Commissioners, residents and the Department of Health will take appropriate measures to identify the source of SGI's water quality problems, as well as investigate ways to address current septic system non-compliance by some businesses and homes. We are all well aware of the importance to pursue improving SGI's wastewater treatment and disposal in whatever way serves the best interests of all its citizens, not just a few.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Gail M. Riegelmayr
St. George Island Resident

cc: Franklin County Board of County Commissioners

Marsha E. Rule, Esq.
Rutledge, Ecenia & Purnell
P.O. Box 551
Tallahassee, FL 32302

090189

RECEIVED-FPSC

Paul Riegelmayr
1471 East Gulf Beach Dr.
St. George Island, FL 32928

MAY -5 AM 9:36

COMMISSION
CLERK

Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Members of the Public Service Commission,

I am urging you to not grant authorization for Water Management Services, Inc. (Gene Brown) to provide centralized sewer service for the central business district on St. George Island, Fl. at this time.

I do not believe that such action will serve the public interest for the following reasons:

1. We do not know the source of the pollution we are experiencing. We are located on a barrier island at the mouth of a large river that has a large population up stream. Could that be the problem? Who knows the definitive answer? Could the problem come from animal sources? Over capacity use of septic systems outside of the central business district? We need to factually identify the source and then deal with it correctly and efficiently. Perhaps more performance based enforcement of the existing systems is the answer. We just do not know at this time.

2. An independent environmental study needs to be done before any further action takes place on this issue.

3. History shows us that a central sewer system inevitably leads to higher density. This will lead more storm water run off problems and adversely affect the water quality, as well as the quality of life for the island residents.

4. What is the cost? Will the tap fees and ready to serve fees be forced on everyone? What are the tap fees, ongoing maintenance costs etc.? What if we spend all of this money and still have the problem?

Please slow this process down. We only have one chance to get it right.

Thank you.



RIEGELMAYER

1471 East Gulf Beach Dr.
St. George Island, FL
32328

Paul Riegelmayr
St. George Island Resident.

cc: Franklin County Board of County Commissioners
cc: Marsha E. Rule, Esq.