

Jacob Veagh

From: Jacob Veagh on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 8:17 AM
To: 'nina stokes'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Docket# 20200226

Good Morning, Kathleen and Roy Stokes

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket 20200226, and the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach will be notified.

Jacob Veagh

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From: nina stokes <ninadv3399@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 8:21 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>; Kit Kat <kitkatstokes@hotmail.com>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Chairman Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket# 20200226

January, 21, 2022

Clerk of the Commission
Commissioner LaRosa
Commissioner Clark
Commissioner Passidomo
Commissioner Graham
Commissioner Fay

Dear Commissioners,

We have owned our home on Little Gasparilla Island at 8892 Gulf St. since 1999. We love and cherish our beautiful piece of paradise, and our grandchildren love fishing off our dock in the beautiful bay waters. We are writing to express our concern about Environmental Utilities, the private, start up inexperienced company that is seeking a wastewater certificate from the Commission. We are very thankful for your time reading and your close attention to all the ongoing concerns of hundreds of homeowners about EU's application. We are formally requesting that you deny this application for so many reasons as follows.

First, let me say that it is my understanding that Charlotte County was not going to address sewer issues on our barrier island until 2029 if then. There were financial reasons including having to take over other private companies that had failed to complete projects. If sewers are needed, Charlotte County should be the one in charge.

We have so many questions about EU's ability to undertake a project of this magnitude, of their financial ability, their management ability, their maintenance ability, their educational and technical ability and their ETHICS!

To begin, As far as need for service, there has not been water quality testing done by EU to show a need for sewer service. Bay waters in the Charlotte County watershed are tested from private docks at sunrise every month for the DEP (52 volunteers at 52 sites) and calibrated and transported to the mainland to be analyzed. if there were any significant problems they would have been published and made known to the public. As the Distinguished Professor from the University of South Florida, Dr. Robert Weisberg, testified in written material submitted to the Commission on 11/23/21 , there is no evidence that red tide is caused by septic tanks as Mr. Boyer claims. He says, I'm after a detailed explanation of the causes of Redtide, "Environmental Utilities cites no scientific support for the proposition that the on site septic tanks exacerbate red tide and algae outbreaks on the barrier island region of concern". He further notes " It is noted that EU's application for sewer lines and delivery is to a Charlotte County connection versus a complete sewer system. Thus a failure of the county system could be exacerbated by the flow from EU further burdening the county system prior to upgrading which may be counter productive with respect to the Sewer Master Plan. "

Looking at environmental concerns involved with EU's project, all the large equipment, and digging which will be involved in the installation are cause for concern for our endangered gopher tortoises , burrowing owls plus the ospreys and our magnificent eagles which nest in our pines. We've seen no mention of needed permits for dealing with these.

A large number of homeowners on LGI are just becoming aware of EU's request and the implications of it being granted. There has been soo much secrecy on finances (EU submitted Scores of documents asking for confidentiality) and misinformation on need for service. EU has never installed a sewer system. The principals , own Little Gasparilla water company and there has been so much controversy about that company, as I'll note later.

EU has two employees, Mr. and Mrs. Boyer and reportedly their son who is said to be taking "sewer classes". Questions are where is EU's place of business other than their home? Where would all necessary equipment to do the project be stored? What are the true facts about finances? There is no contract and no single point of general oversight. Of Great importance is Why is there no performance bond? EU Is an LLC and in case of an environmental spill there is no available public help? Homeowners will have no recourse if there are cost overruns (which is Very possible considering everything has to be barged to the island and the barge moves when the operator feels like it). All cost overruns will be passed on the homeowners.,

We were at first told the cost could be \$20,000 per homeowner, with maybe some grants possible , and that if we protested, we'd pay even more! Now it appears the estimated cost is \$11,928 hook up fee, \$55.32 per 10000 gallons, \$1,299.85 installation fee, \$30 installation connection fee and a Whopping cost of \$ 201.04 PER MONTH! In addition it says "initial deposit should be equal to average charge for wastewater for two months based on approved final rates". Is that \$ 402.08? No mention of grants to help pay costs now and no provision to pay over time. Many homeowners will have to secure loans to pay these costs.

Homeowners may have to have a new electric panel to handle the new equipment needed. In the event of power outages, which happens Very often, (the last one was 19 hours a couple weeks ago but some have been a few days) generators will be needed to keep the system running to avoid sewage back ups. Can you imagine the smell, noise, pollution in addition to the fuel needed to run them? If a hurricane came and there was no power for days, it would be a disaster! EU offers no plans for this kind of emergency or for possible sewage spills in the intercostal waterway.

Finally, in addressing technical ability, and questioning if it is in the best interest of the public for EU to be granted this certificate, ethics and honesty need to be looked at. I'm sure you have read and are aware of the documented

dishonesty of the owner of EU. He illegally took, stole, water from Palm Island State Park and ran it to his water company on Little Gasparilla Island, a felony for which he was fined. Then more controversy for the water company when he was caught for performing plumbing work without a license or permit and for then connecting homes to his water without a permit. Some work had to be redone due to use of wrong equipment. He was fined for three homes but admitted to a group of homeowners (myself included) and two Charlotte County water employees that he had hooked up 100 ! In addition, he didn't pay all required "tap in" fees in a timely manner until called out by Charlotte County. There were times when the water system broke down for various reasons and customers were not informed of the necessity to boil water, a health and safety hazard. Property taxes on his water facility were in arrears several years and certificates bought. With all Mr. Boyer's history, It is shocking that Charlotte County Commissioners gave the right to him to apply for the wastewater certificate. The only difference is that he now works under a different company name.

Thank you again for reading our input and concerns. We trust you will see the need to deny Environmental Utilities' application as there are so many questions about the company.

Sincerely,

Kathleen and Roy Stokes

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows