

**Charlie Smith**

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**From:** Betty Leland  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 2:32 PM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032  
**Attachments:** Sewer System for Knight Island, Don Pedro Island, aka Palm Island; RE. Docket # 20240032-SU; Deny Environmental Utilities, LLC Docket 20240032-SU; Request Waste Water Service

Good Afternoon:

Please place this email in Docket #20240032.

Thanks.

Betty A. Leland, Executive Assistant to  
Commissioner Art Graham  
Florida Public Service Commission  
[bleland@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:bleland@psc.state.fl.us)  
(850) 413-6024

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Charlene Mackin <charlene@palmislandstays.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 2:27 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Commissioner.Passiodomo@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; Palm Island Estates  
**Subject:** Sewer System for Knight Island, Don Pedro Island, aka Palm Island

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My husband, Kevin Mackin and I, Charlene Mackin are very concerned regarding the possibility of adding a sewer system to our island currently consisting of individual septic systems for each homeowner. These concerns are:

1. Environmental: No studies have been done to prove the need for sewer
2. EU is NOT a contractor and has no experience with a massive project such as installing a sewer system for the entire island. We all know what can happen if you get a bad contractor and the many issues that could befall on a project as complex and environmentally difficult as this would be.
3. Cost: The hook-up costs are exceeding high and are vague on the actual the costs will eventually be on not just a month by month water bill, but the installation fees can go up and up.
4. Warranty: There are no guarantees that the treatment of sewer waste will be processed in an environmentally efficient manner as well as no guarantees on lifespan of the equipment, system maintenance, and on and on. Again, a contractor who has never tackled an operation as complex as this would inevitably be a disaster.
5. Access to homes: What about some property owners would have physical restraints on getting access to their homes, the car ferry would be delayed in unbelievable amounts of time to prohibit a timely journey on and off the island, and this could take years to complete.
6. Potential of sewer spill in the Intracoastal Waterway. The risk of central sewer leak is far greater than the risk of septic systems developing leaks.
7. Grandfathering of septic systems regardless of age. My husband and I just spent \$12,000 installing a new septic system for our home at 381 Bocilla Dr. This fact would not even be considered.

Most importantly, NOTHING has been shown to prove that a sewer system would be environmentally beneficial over the current septic systems we homeowners have in place. We BEG you to not even consider this project. If you investigate the EXACT step by step procedures of this very complex and time consuming project, you will find that there are many open ended questions and concerns that have not been addressed or outlined. It is vague, unprofessional and environmentally NOT SOUND.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kevin and Charlene Mackin  
381 Bocilla Dr.  
Placida, FL 33946

**Charlie Smith**

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**From:** Janice Schroder <carpartjanice@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 2:02 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Subject:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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## **I am opposed to the sewer proposal by Environmental Utilities, LLC**

My name is Janice Schroder.

I live on Little Gasparilla Island.  
I have a septic system.  
It works fine.

I do not want the proposed sewer system, which is substandard to the septic system I have and own. It will require more work and money to maintain than my current septic system.

It will force me to pay a high price to “hookup” and then an expensive monthly fee.

It will force me to purchase a generator, since the proposed system is electricity dependent. Without electricity, putrid contents could leach out into the open. Consider how this would attract rats and disease.

It will tear up my personal property, including my vegetation. Who will replace and return my property to its pre construction state?

On Little Gasparilla Island, we use electric golf carts to haul our groceries and supplies from the docks to our homes.  
Electric motors are located underneath the carts.

Many carts will not survive the mud, trenches and puddles from the construction. This will add another layer of frustration and expense to islanders.

As a community, we are still rebuilding our beautiful island to the way it was before hurricane Ian hit us so hard.

The sewer construction will tear up our entire privately owned island and ruin our fragile roads. Who will rebuild the roads?

I believe, for many, it would be devastating, both emotionally and financially, to deal with the negative impact of this proposed construction.

This bad idea has been turned down by islanders once before. How many times do we have to say “no”?

I request that the PSC **deny EU’s application for wastewater** service.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Janice Schroder

Email: [janice@schroder.net](mailto:janice@schroder.net)

Sent from my iPad

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Sarah Daniel <athomethomasville119@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 1:53 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** Deny Environmental Utilities, LLC Docket 20240032-SU

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

Dear Commissioner Clerk,

I live at 450 Bocilla Dr. on Don Pedro Island. We have been living there for the last 7 years. and have been coming to the Island for the last 27 years.

As you know, the cost of the initial installation is over \$12,000, and will probably be more. There is a cost to the owners to connect the system to the house, and a generator to buy and install, and a deposit to begin the service. We simply cannot afford these costs.

In addition, there will be huge disruption to the roads, which will impact the wildlife, including gopher turtles, which are endangered. It will disrupt the intercoastal waterway.

We have seen no reliable data that doing this will have a positive impact on the environment, rather we believe it will be very disruptive and have a negative impact on the environment and local wildlife.

Environmental Utilities LLC has no prior experience, and has already been denied approval. The island residents have been against this from the beginning. Why is this being debated again?

Please stop this silliness. Enough already.

Sincerely,

Tim and Sarah Daniel  
450 Bocilla Drive,  
Placida (Don Pedro Island)  
229-200-2199

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Matthew DeFilippis <mdefilippis@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 1:40 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Subject:** Request Waste Water Service

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

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you today as a concerned property and business owner at 7025 Placida Road, Englewood FL to express my support for a centralized sewer system. It is my understanding that when centralized sewer becomes available to Little Gasparilla, Knight Island and local areas a new line will be brought by our office location. I am requesting waste water service at that time.

My family lives in an amazing coastal community which enjoys the local waters of Lemon Bay, Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve, Gasparilla Sound and near shore. We have a duty for stewardship of these coastal waters, our community and its economy. Septic systems in coastal areas are a detriment to our environment. High water tables, high flushing tides and poorly system flush human waste into the waters surrounding our area. The results are worsening coastal algal blooms, hazardous streets of Little Gasparilla after a heavy rain with high tide, reduced sales of commercial seafood, reduced recreational fishing, and inhibited ecotourism.

There has been opposition to centralized sewer when it was first proposed. I found all the supporting evidence and the information is clear. I read a study done in Lee County, the county directly south of us on the coast that shares Gasparilla Sound that proved septic contamination of local waters. I just typed into Google and Google scholar "Are septic systems in coastal areas bad for environment" and it listed some good peer reviewed Journals discussing the harmful effects of septic systems on costal watersheds.

<https://www.fau.edu/newsdesk/articles/septic-systems-southwest-florida.php#:~:text=Florida's%20coastal%20regions%20are%20particularly,water%20tables%20and%20porous%20soils.>

I urge you to consider the overwhelming evidence supporting centralized sewer system and take action to prioritize the health of our environment and community. I am requesting centralized sewer and ready to tie in.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Matthew DeFilippis

7025 Placida Rd.

2129 Michigan Ave

19076 Cochran Blvd.