

**Charlie Smith**

**From:** Betty Leland  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 5:10 PM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032  
**Attachments:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032 - SU - Martin and Janet Mueller - Interested Party LGI Property Owners; Docket # 20240032-SU; Opposition to Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for Wastewater Service; Docket #20230032-SU; 2 letters of objection to Environmental Utilities Wastewater Application Docket#20240032-SU; Docket No. 20240032; Proposed low pressure system for Little Gasparilla Island; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; Docket# 20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; PSC Docket #20240032-SU

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

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:** jordan schlandt <jschlandt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 4:08 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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To whom it may concern,

My wife and I are owners and full-time residents of Little Gasparilla Island. We absolutely oppose the proposed low pressure "sewer" system and the idea that Jack Boyer and company and his greed should be allowed to be mandated to us. I have worked on pumping systems for over 20 years and have spent a lot of time in leachate pumping, transfer stations, lift stations, and the plumbing, pumps, motors, and controls for these systems. This system is a terrible idea for our island. It will not have the manpower, cost effectiveness, redundancies, oversight, or common sense for this specific place. I cannot even believe that after Ian and a lack of power for weeks this is still even in question, not only that, reliable systems in this environment and labor are incredibly expensive and a lot of that will go to Jack's wallet and unproportionally benefit him to an obscene amount. The county and state continue to mandate extremely expensive private industries and geographical monopolies and that in itself is simply anti-American and anti-free market. The county and state do little more than take our taxes and mandate private industry to us. We have no mainland parking, boat ramps, trash or any service that should be provided by our tax dollars, yet here we are arguing about another obscene mandate to truly only benefit 1 company and leave the homeowners with a massive bill, a bad system, and more destruction on our fragile island.

Jordan and Amy Schlandt

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Martin Mueller <martinmueller07@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 4:06 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Cc:** mfriedman@deanmead.com  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032 - SU - Martin and Janet Mueller - Interested Party LGI Property Owners

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

CC: Environmental Utilities Counsel  
Martin s. Friedman  
Esquire Dean Mead  
420 S. Orange Avenue  
Suite 700 Orlando, FL. 32801

Re: Docket #20240032-SU (open) - Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC.

Dear Florida Public Service Commission members:

I am writing to you, as a property owner on Little Gasparilla Island, to express my concerns regarding the application referenced above submitted for your consideration by Environmental Utilities, state my objections to their application and urge you to deny their request.

I have 35 years' experience with government funded utility infrastructure projects. I am not sure how a proposed project of this scope would be considered without a more thorough process.

I have the following concerns regarding the current scenario:

- No notice to concerned parties

As a property owner on Little Gasparilla I did not receive a notice as to this proposed project.

- No Need

As an Owner of a condominium unit at Hideaway Bay Beach Club I am not aware there is a need for this project for our association. We have a functioning, reliable sewage treatment plant that is managed by an experienced and licensed service provider on a regular basis.

- Lack of petitioner sewage license or experience

I am not aware that Environmental Utilities has a license or any expertise in Sewage treatment management.

- Not fair and Equitable proposed fees

The proposed fees would make the sewage treatment expenses the highest in the state of Florida for a service we do not need.

Please let me know how I can be added to the notifications list related to these proceedings.

Thank you in advance.

Martin and Janet Mueller

Property Address:

Hideaway Bay Beach Condominium

9400 Little Gasparilla Island

Unit C-6

Placida, FL 33946

Correspondence Address:

4405 W 111<sup>th</sup> Terrace

Leawood, KS 66211

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Louise Volpe <loubreez570@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 3:36 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Subject:** Docket # 20240032-SU; Opposition to Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for Wastewater Service  
**Attachments:** Docket # 20240032-SU; Opposition to Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for Wastewater Service.docx

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

Dear Commissioners:

I, Louise Volpe, am the owner of property on Little Gasparilla Island within the proposed service area for Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) application to provide wastewater service. My properties are located at 9842 Little Gasparilla Island and 9848 Little Gasparilla Island.

I am writing to object and oppose this APPLICATION FOR ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION AND INITIAL RATES AND CHARGES FOR WASTEWATER SERVICE (the Application). I request that you DENY the Application. The Application does not demonstrate sufficient need for service, and the application and service are not in the public interest.

My family has owned property on Little Gasparilla Island since 1963. Like me, many of the homeowners have held property on LGI for decades. I have installed a private septic system at significant personal expense, and maintain this system in good operation. Eliminating the raised drain field will not provide an environmental benefit. And the risk of environmental hazard from the low-pressure system outweighs any potential benefit from the system.

The Application has not provided sufficient demonstration of need for the proposed service. The applicant has not received any approvals from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection or the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The Application relies on general statements about removal of septic systems on barrier islands as the basis for need for service. It references service needs for failing systems and septic to sewer conversions as a basis for need. However, this is irrelevant because the proposed low-pressure system does not remove septic systems. If systems are in failure, the low pressure system will not cure those defects. Further, in the event of power loss (which occurs often on LGI) the low pressure system could fail causing back-ups and septic failures and resulting in increased environmental risk. In short, the justification for the application need is unrelated to the proposed system and irrelevant. The Application does not demonstrate need.

The proposed low pressure sewer system would be overly burdensome on the homeowners of Little Gasparilla Island. The proposed connection fees (over \$13,000) and proposed rates of over \$250/month are extremely high and a financial burden to many of the owners. These onerous rates would be among the highest in the state and cause an extreme hardship on many of the owners.

I stand with many of my neighbors in opposing this Application. It would not provide the intended benefit and the costs surely outweigh any anticipated benefit. The only one that stands to benefit is the utility owner. Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We respectfully request that you DENY the Application.

Sincerely,

Louise Volpe

[Loubreez570@gmail.com](mailto:Loubreez570@gmail.com)

Florida Public Service Commission  
Adam Teitzman, Commission Clerk  
Office of Commission Clerk  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket # 20240032-SU; Opposition to Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for Wastewater Service

Dear Commissioners:

I, Louise Volpe, am the owner of property on Little Gasparilla Island within the proposed service area for Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) application to provide wastewater service. My properties are located at 9842 Little Gasparilla Island and 9848 Little Gasparilla Island.

I am writing to object and oppose this APPLICATION FOR ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION AND INITIAL RATES AND CHARGES FOR WASTEWATER SERVICE (the Application). I request that you DENY the Application. The Application does not demonstrate sufficient need for service, and the application and service are not in the public interest.

My family has owned property on Little Gasparilla Island since 1963. Like me, many of the homeowners have held property on LGI for decades. I have installed a private septic system at significant personal expense, and maintain this system in good operation. Eliminating the raised drain field will not provide an environmental benefit. And the risk of environmental hazard from the low-pressure system outweighs any potential benefit from the system.

The Application has not provided sufficient demonstration of need for the proposed service. The applicant has not received any approvals from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection or the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The Application relies on general statements about removal of septic systems on barrier islands as the basis for need for service. It references service needs for failing systems and septic to sewer conversions as a basis for need. However, this is irrelevant because the proposed low-pressure system does not remove septic systems. If systems are in failure, the low pressure system will not cure those defects. Further, in the event of power loss (which occurs often on LGI) the low pressure system could fail causing back-ups and septic failures and resulting in increased environmental risk. In short, the justification for the application need is unrelated to the proposed system and irrelevant. The Application does not demonstrate need.

The proposed low pressure sewer system would be overly burdensome on the homeowners of Little Gasparilla Island. The proposed connection fees (over \$13,000) and proposed rates of over

\$250/month are extremely high and a financial burden to many of the owners. These onerous rates would be among the highest in the state and cause an extreme hardship on many of the owners.

I stand with many of my neighbors in opposing this Application. It would not provide the intended benefit and the costs surely outweigh any anticipated benefit. The only one that stands to benefit is the utility owner. Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We respectfully request that you DENY the Application.

Sincerely,

Louise Volpe

Loubreez570@gmail.com



## Charlie Smith

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**From:** John Granger <jfgranger60@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 3:09 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Cc:** lagranger@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Docket #20230032-SU

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

Hello,

My name is John Granger and I am a property owner on Little Gasparilla Island. The address is: 8050 Little Gasparilla Island, Placida, FL 33946. I live on the north end of LGI, dock #4. I am formally requesting the Public Service Commission (PSC) deny Environmental Utilities (EU) application for wastewater service. The basis for my request is as follows:

1. EU will be owned and operated by the same people and organization that handles Little Gasparilla Water Utilities (LGWU). The water service on the island is very expensive and water quality is generally poor. We have chronic problem with "iron bacteria" which causes an orangish ring in toilets and sinks. I have complained several times but was told not much they can do about it. It is supposedly harmless but still gross. I believe the cause is lack of chlorine in the water and lack of a continuous flow loop. We are at the end of a long radial line and so water gets stagnant and conditions get worse during the summer heat.
2. I would like to see an implementation plan that prioritizes removal of septic systems based on condition, age and size (north end condos should go first). Houses with newer septic systems and designed/installed correctly would be required to connect after some reasonable time (e.g. 10 years)
3. Due to the critical nature of the wastewater system, the design needs to be very robust and should be performed by a Professional Engineer that specializes in wastewater systems and equipment. It's recommended and an Independent Engineer performs a design and installation review.
4. Operations and Maintenance (O&M) processes and procedures need to be developed that are specific to LGI. This needs to include off-normal procedures for expected equipment problems and a Emergency Response Plan for major failures, pipe breaks, or Hurricane.
5. A good cost estimate for each property should be provided. This will be tough to swallow with cost of everything sky rocketing. LGI residents pay extremely high taxes considering the very limited services on the island. There is basically no fire or police (needs to come by boat), no school access/busses, no roads or bridges to repair. Is there a way that residents can receive some sort of tax break to offset the sewer costs?

In summary, I think we all want to help the environment we are destroying so a wastewater system would be a good thing. However, due to its critical nature and location, it has to be very well planned, designed, installed, and operated. I do not think the proposed owner/operator is capable of this and EU application should be denied.

John Granger  
8050 Little Gasparilla Island

Placida, FL 33946

jfgranger60@gmail.com

561-309-1481

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** stop jack boyer <stopjackboyeronceandforall@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 2:58 PM  
**To:** Consumer Contact  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; bill.truex@charlottecountyfl.gov; ken.doherty@charlottecountyfl.gov; chris.constance@charlottecountyfl.gov; stephenr.deutsch@charlottecountyfl.gov; joseph.tiseo@charlottecountyfl.gov; mfriedman@deanmead.com  
**Subject:** 2 letters of objection to Environmental Utilities Wastewater Application Docket# 20240032-SU  
**Attachments:** sewer objection Lleras.pdf; sewer objection barney.pdf

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I have attached 2 letters of objection to docket @20240032.

**Julio Lleras**  
**3046 Huron Ave.**  
**Oldsmar, FL 34677**

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

April 24, 2024

Re: Objection Letter - Environmental Utilities Wastewater Application Docket #20240032-SU

Cc: Florida Public Service Chairman LaRosa, Florida Public Service Commissioner Clark, Florida Public Service Commissioner Passidomo, Florida Public Service Commissioner Graham, Florida Public Service Commissioner Fay  
Charlotte County Commissioner Truex, Charlotte County Commissioner Doherty, Charlotte County Commissioner Constance, Charlotte County Commissioner Deutsch, Charlotte County Commissioner Tiseo

Marty Friedman

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Julio Lleras. I own multiple properties on Little Gasparilla Island, specifically 8630 Wharf Avenue, 8556 Little Gasparilla Island, 8554 Little Gasparilla Island, 8558 Little Gasparilla Island, 8618 Marsh Street. I am asking that you deny Environmental Utilities Wastewater Application Docket #20240032- SU.

This is the second time we have had to fight the same illogical proposal for an inadequate, antiquated system by the same person. In addition to denying this application, please, please, please do not let him submit again.

The following are the main reasons to deny this application.

A. Will there be destruction of protected native wildlife and foliage - YES.

- B. Does Jack Boyer (EU) have the technical expertise and/or financial ability to run this project and provide ongoing services – NO as evidenced by the state of Little Gasparilla Water Utility. (Also a Jack Boyer private company)
- C. Is there a need for this particular service - NO. This is the wrong system to fix a problem that has not been proven to be caused by the current systems in place. Removal of the current sewage systems will cause massive destruction to our ecosystem. Replacing the septic tanks with a septic tank and pump system only removes liquids, not solids. The mechanical parts are going to need constant maintenance in this atmosphere with far more opportunity for spills. What is next? In 5 years, is Jack Boyer going to come up with a new system to replace the inadequate systems he is proposing? Again, at the cost of damage to the environment. The property owners will be, once again, putting their hard-earned money in Jack's pocket.
- D. Are the costs reasonable to ask the property owners to pay? - NO.
- a. There are grants available that would bring down the cost. However, since Jack Boyer is a "for profit" entity, he is not allowed to apply for them. Why isn't Charlotte County in charge of this project?
  - b. In addition to the very high, up front costs and destruction of the environment, there will be operating costs of approximately \$4,000 a year plus maintenance per property. All of the property owners suffered losses during Hurricane Ian. Many are still fighting the insurance companies. Many don't have insurance because of the massive increase in cost. How will these people be able to afford this system?

Attempting to fix one problem while creating multiple, more devastating problems is not smart!

Please accept this letter as my **formal objection** to this application.

Sincerely,



Julio Lleras

**Bryan and Cyndy Barney**  
**8654 Wharf Ave**  
**Placida, FL 33946**

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

April 24, 2024

**Re: Objection Letter - Environmental Utilities Wastewater Application  
Docket #20240032- SU**

**Cc: Florida Public Service Chairman LaRosa, Florida Public Service  
Commissioner Clark, Florida Public Service Commissioner  
Passidomo, Florida Public Service Commissioner Graham, Florida  
Public Service Commissioner Fay**

**Charlotte County Commissioner Truex, Charlotte County  
Commissioner Doherty, Charlotte County Commissioner  
Constance, Charlotte County Commissioner Deutsch, Charlotte  
County Commissioner Tiseo**

**Marty Friedman**

Dear Commissioners,

Our names are Bryan and Cyndy Barney. We are residents/owners of 8654 Wharf Ave. on Little Gasparilla Island. We are asking that you deny the application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County(CC) by Environmental Utilities,LLC (EU).

In the two years we have owned our property, this is the second time we have had to fight the same illogical proposal for an inadequate, antiquated system by the same person. In addition to denying this application, please, please, please do not let him submit again.

We realize you have many objection letters to review, so we included a summary of the very unnecessary, very long, very stressful, very expensive ordeal that Jack Boyer is putting us through followed by 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the detail I would like to include.

Summary:



- A. Does EU have the technical expertise and/or financial ability to run this project and provide timely ongoing services - NO.
- B. Is there a need for this particular service - NO. This is the wrong system to fix a problem that has not been proven to be caused by the current systems in place.
- C. Will there be destruction of protected native wildlife and foliage - YES. The removal of the current septic systems and subsequent installation of the new will decimate the protected flora and fauna that have managed to fight their way back after the hurricanes.
- D. Are the costs reasonable to ask the property owners to pay? - NO. If the environment is really EU's main concern, they should be willing to become a Non-profit Public Utility.
- E. Do we want Jack Boyer to have Perpetual use of our land? - NO
- F. Where is Jack Boyer? - Can't be found
- G. Do we get a vote? You are our vote. Please help.

**A. Lack of technical expertise and/or financial ability to run this project and provide ongoing services.**

1. There is a lack of faith in EU to run a utility based on Mr. Boyer's history with LGI Water Utility (LGWUO. Mr. Boyer has proven that he cannot adequately operate a public utility as evidenced by his current and past operation of LGWU. A lot of these concerns were brought to the PSC attention previously. Some of the issues were shoddy work; repairs made with duct tape, pipes not buried to the proper depth; unavailability of LGWU employees during water pipe breaks; lack of timely boil water notices, water pipes crossing through property lines without permission; excessive lengths of time from request for service to the repairs being made (if at all).

We have personal experience with this. The water main in front of our house is frequently hit by carts going by. It is raised above the surface level of the path. We requested that it be repaired over two years ago. Amazingly, now that this proposal is before you, someone showed up and changed out the box around the shutoff so it looks "pretty". They did NOTHING to fix the problem, only make it prettier. It is now higher above ground and more of a hazard. If they are currently taking all of the profit from LGWU and putting it in their pocket instead of investing in staff and repairs for the water system, why would we think they would do anything different with the new utility they are creating. They have learned

that they can do this without any recourse from those of us funding it.

2. The LGWU office is operating on antiquated equipment. They can't even take an electronic payment for the quarterly fees. They want more than double the number of properties they currently service when they can't handle the current load.

3. The owners of EU don't have any experience or licensing for wastewater.

4. EU has less than \$5,000 in the bank. They don't want anyone to know what other resources they have as evidenced by the redaction of the financial information. What are the Boyer's hiding? Have they made so much money off the backs of residents from LGWU that they are afraid to show their financials?

**The Boyers are the sole owners of what should be a public utility.**

**Is this smart? NO**

**B. Is there a need for this particular system ? NO, it is not the correct system.**

1. While there is a need for a centralized waste removal system, this is not the correct system. This system does not remove all waste, only wastewater. The septic "tank" would still need to be pumped thereby not alleviating one of the challenges of septic tanks. I haven't made it through all 493 pages of the application, but, it has come to my attention that the only one permitted to fix or maintain these systems is EU. This creates a monopoly, not to mention the fact that they have NO experience with this type of system. They can't even maintain the "Public" Utility that they currently have.

2. Jack Boyer included information from Dr. Brian Lapointe about the need for a central sewer system. While he has many valid points, I didn't see anywhere in his information that the system proposed is the correct system. He did not indicate which type of Central System would cure the issues he listed.

3. The proposed system relies on an electric pump. Water was transported to LGI by many different means following Hurricane Ian. While some people were able to get their wells functioning and run them from generators, most were



without water for weeks. This was an Act of God and therefore, I don't hold Jack Boyer responsible. However, if the proposed sewage system had been in place, there would have been no sewage disposal available and there would have been a much, much larger problem on the island and the surrounding waters!

4. The septic systems in place have been working very well if maintained properly. There has been no proof that the problems in the Bay have been caused by septic system overflow. There are many different contributing factors that are not being addressed and certainly not cured with this system. In the meantime, wildlife and plant life are thriving.

**This is NOT the correct system.**

**C. Will there be destruction of protected native wildlife and foliage - YES.**

1. The paths will be decimated. This was evident during the recovery efforts after Ian and Idalia (which are ongoing). Heavy equipment was necessary for many reasons including, but not limited to, cleanup and rebuilding. The paths were destroyed and the residents were left to repair them on their own. Jack Boyer is proposing that he have unlimited access to all Rights of Way. He is proposing to clear the entire width of Rights of Way. Currently, our path is approximately 10 feet wide with foliage on both sides. Our right of way is 40 ft wide. He will be removing mature trees that are necessary for maintaining the ecosystem and protecting the island from storms. The equipment necessary for this type of project will cause the same problems with the paths as it did after Ian. Ian was an ACT of GOD. Jack Boyer does not have the right to play God.
2. Oh, and by the way, he wants perpetual access to our property. God only knows what he will do to our beautiful trees! Our remaining trees have struggled since the hurricanes. We have done our best to help them recover. They are not his, nor will we sit by and let him remove them. We do NOT grant him access to even look at our property, let alone walk on it and destroy it.
3. The Island's Gopher Tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) will be decimated by this type of activity. They have had a hard enough time recovering after Ian and then Idalia. **Are they not protected from Jack Boyer? Islanders and visitors alike are**

very, very careful to take care of the Gopher Tortoise population. There are many other species that will also be affected.

**D. Are the costs reasonable to ask the property owners to pay? - NO.**

1. **Up-front costs in the submission:** There are many concerns about the cost of this project. Prices quoted by EU total \$13,511.00 for up-front costs. The prices estimated in the CC Sewer Master Plan (SMP) are significantly higher and listed in 2017 dollars. Costs at LGI would be \$22,540.00 based on occupied lots. These figures assume the transmission lines that EU is responsible for installing according to the CC Bulk Sewer Agreement are included in each area calculations. If, EU was able to secure the permitting to put the sewer line through two areas that are vital to the ecosystem, Don Pedro State Park and the mangrove islands between the mainland & the barrier islands, only one transmission line would be necessary. In that case, the average cost based on 964 ERC's would be \$20,722.12. Again these numbers are based on 2017 dollars. Construction costs have increased between 19 - 37 % since 2020. That would more than double EU's stated costs based on the CC SMP figures. We don't feel that EU has any idea what the monetary costs will be and less idea of the environmental impact of the construction. (Or maybe Jack just doesn't care). I don't find these up-front costs to be worth the damage that will be caused to the ecosystem for a system that is no better and probably worse for the environment than the septic systems we have.
2. **Up front costs not addressed in the submission:** They include: Electrician & electrical upgrades; barge fees for pump trucks & fill material when removing the current septic; landscaping costs; back up generators; loss of use of the homes while this is ongoing, interest costs on loans. Because EU is a for profit company, the island residents are also not able to defray the costs of the sewers using grants, bonds or MSBU's. The cost of a loan becomes a personal expense that cannot be transferred with the property if sold.
3. **Ongoing costs:**
  - a. **Monthly charge from Jack Boyer:** Who knows what the monthly bill for the sewer will be? An estimate of the monthly bill is a minimum of \$200 per month with additional usage fees.

- b. Pump out charges....according to epa.gov, the typical septic tank needs pumped every 3-5 years. The type of system proposed should be pumped, repaired and inspected every year. More importantly, the pump out trucks would need to be at every home every year....what will that do to our environment?
  - c. Maintenance of the system at our home: According to the EPA, "A service contract is important since alternative systems have mechanized parts". As we, the residents, know, mechanized means broken on LGI since the salt air and water is particularly harmful to mechanized equipment. Jack Boyer is requesting the exclusive right to service these systems...this creates a monopoly in addition to him having NO experience with this type of system.
- 4. The regular property owner cannot afford these additional costs.** This is highlighted as we struggle to carry inflated costs for property insurances (flood, windstorm, and homeowners), increasing Charlotte County property taxes with precious little services to LGI , and our ever increasing private water supply utility service charges. This is also on top of the FACT that we are still rebuilding our property after destruction from Hurricane Ian!
- 5. If the health of the island and Bay are really the reason to do this project, then EU should be willing to become a Non-profit public utility.**

### **E. Perpetual Use of our Land**

Jack is asking for new easements, rights of Way, etc. onto our property. There is no reason for him to have perpetual right to our property since there is no reason for this type of system. He is making us responsible for all costs, but wants our property too? This doesn't make sense.

### **F. Where is Jack Boyer?**

Jack Boyer is nowhere to be found. He hasn't been seen on this island in months. Does he care about this island and the others included in his reign of destruction? Has he asked for input from residents? Has he held a "town hall" meeting to talk to residents? The answer to all of these is an emphatic NO.



**G. Do we get a Vote?**

We as property owners do not get a vote since it is approved/denied by the Commission. We **BEG** you to do the **RIGHT** thing. This application **MUST** be **denied** and Jack Boyer must be barred from submitting another application. He is abusing the time and money of the Taxpayers, The Commission, the County, and the property owners to the **detriment** of this protected piece of "Old Florida".

**Attempting to fix one problem while creating multiple, more devastating problems is not smart!**

**We are formally requesting an administrative hearing by the PSC for this application and to become, an intervenor and/or party of record.**

**Please accept this letter as our formal objection to this application.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Barney", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Bryan Barney**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cyndy Barney", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Cyndy Barney**

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Wayne Evans <snartlet@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 2:30 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Commissioner.LaRose@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** Docket No. 20240032

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

Dear Commissioner:

This letter is to respectfully submit that we are against putting the low pressure sewer system on Little Gasparilla Island.

We are homeowners in Hideaway Bay Beach Club. The system is not a complete solution and it puts undo burden on HBBC where we have a system in place that is already environmentally friendly and better than what you are proposing to change to.

Thank you.

Wayne Evans K6 Hideaway Bay Beach Club  
Ann Townsley-Evans K6 Hideaway Bay Beach Club

## Charlie Smith

---

**From:** Bridget Bush <bbush927@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 1:55 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham; Commissioner.LaRose@psc.state.fl.us; Office of Commissioner Passidomo  
**Subject:** Proposed low pressure system for Little Gasparilla Island

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

To Whom it May Concern,

I am an owner in Hideaway Bay Beach Club on Little Gasparilla Island, and write to express my strong objection to the proposed low pressure “sewer” system for Little Gasparilla Island.

First, it is not necessary. Hideaway and Placida Beach condos have professionally maintained septic systems that work well, and have been continually updated at considerable cost.

Second, the residents did not request this proposed system and overwhelmingly object to it.

Third, the system itself is not even a true sewer: it would not remove solids. What then is the point? A grey water system is no different than what is now in place.

Fourth, the cost (I estimate it would cost us \$20k to hook up) and the monthly/ quarterly costs would make Little Gasparilla Island’s sewage and water costs the highest in the state of Florida.

Fifth, to impose these unwarranted costs on an island that has not even recovered from Hurricane Ian, almost two years later, is beyond unfair: it is cruel.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bridget Bush  
9400 Little Gasparilla Island  
Hideaway Bay Beach Club D-9

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Todd Belden <todd.belden@onedigital.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 12:48 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; mfriedman@deanmead.com; cbelden@huff.com  
**Subject:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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

Dear Clerk, Commissioners, and Mr. Friedman,

As homeowners effected by the above application, we object to EU's application to provide wastewater services. Here are several reasons:

**Hook-up Cost:** According to the application, the initial connection fee will be \$12,000. There is an additional \$1,097 "Sewer Lateral Connection" fee to run the pipe from the road to the location of the equipment near your home. There is also an initial deposit required of \$414, which is identified as 2x the estimated monthly bill. That's a total of \$13,511.00. Note that costs could exceed the estimates by large measure and homeowners will likely be saddled with additional burdens.

**Average Residential Bill:** The rates and tariffs submitted to the PSC shows a base rate of \$115.81 per month just to provide wastewater service. In addition, the monthly residential service charge is \$39.64 per 1000 gallons. EU estimates average household usage at 2,500 gallons/month. Based on this, the monthly billing would be \$207.00/month. However, when the PSC prepared a Rate Case summary that was distributed at the 2022 Administrative Hearing, they cited a more realistic average household usage estimate of 4,000 gals/month. Using this average the monthly billing would be \$263.57/month for wastewater service alone. This is exclusive of your water bill.

**Electric:** the system pump requires a separate electric panel, installed by a licensed electrician at the expense of the homeowner.

**More electric:** If the owner has maxed out their main electric grid with pool equipment or other large-draw items, the panel will need an expensive upgrade.

**Generator:** the pump has a limited capacity (60 gal) and in the event of a power outage will be unable to function for long. Homeowners will need a generator to keep the system running to avoid sewage back-up.

**Tree removal:** Landscaping and hardscaping around the septic area will need to be cleared at the expense of the homeowner to gain access to the crush & fill the existing septic tank and install the new one.

**No pay-over-time plan:** Ratepayers may need to take loans to cover the cost of connection.

**Mandatory Hook-up:** Charlotte County regulations require all homes to connect to central water and wastewater within 1 year of availability.

**No grandfathering of septic systems:** regardless of age or condition.

**No “contractor” and no single point of general oversight:** EU is not a contractor that has won a bid to install sewer. The PSC approves certification based solely on four criteria: need for service, financial ability of the applicant, technical expertise of the applicant and fair/equitable rates and charges. Each of the other agencies (County, DEP, Army Corps, etc.) is responsible for supervising only their specific area where regulation and/or permitting is involved. There is no performance bond required and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure.

**Access to homes:** Some properties have physical constraints that will complicate how the applicant gains access to the property without leaving the boundaries or damaging the grounds.

**Disruption of traffic:** Vehicles have only one point of entry/egress -- the car ferry. With normal traffic, service and construction trucks, delays at the ferry line in season can be an hour or more. This project could result in years of traffic issues.

**New easement giveaway:** Most utility easements are placed in the road right-of-way. EU has claimed ownership of a utility easement that will go from the sewer equipment, located near the house to the connection in the road without compensating the homeowner.

**System maintenance and emergencies:** The applicant has not addressed how the system will be serviced in the event of failure during a storm or other adverse conditions.

**Lifespan of the equipment:** Salt air takes a heavy toll on mechanical and electrical equipment here. Equipment will need replacing when it fails, possibly at 5-year intervals. This proposal places too much responsibility on the homeowner at too great a cost.

**Environmental concerns:** No water quality testing has been done in our area to prove a need for sewer. This project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species such as the gopher tortoise.

**Potential of sewer spill in the Intracoastal:** The risk of a central sewer leak with a subaqueous crossing is greater than the risk of one or more septic systems developing leaks.

Please STOP this ridiculous ask!

Todd J. Belden  
171 Bocilla Drive  
Placida, FL 33946



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## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Carol Rowe <carowe34@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 11:50 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** Docket# 20240032-SU

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To whom it may concern,

We are homeowners and full time residents of 8160 and 8162 Little Gasparilla Island.

We are in opposition of docket # 20240032-SU. A few of the concerns we have are as follows:

- There has been no study showing the need for a low pressure sewer system or evidence of environmental damage allegedly caused by the current septic tanks and/or leach beds.
- In the case of extended power outages, example being Hurricane Ian, we were without power for twelve days. How will the proposed system move waste without power?
- Forced hook up fees are estimated to start at \$12,000 with additional monthly surcharge fees (similar to our current water bills.) There is no maximum charge limitation.
- What will the impact be to the protected wildlife, vegetation and private properties by the equipment necessary to install said system? Will construction halt for the various nesting seasons of protected wildlife?
- We believe the sewer and water systems should be under Charlotte County Governmental service umbrella.

Please do the will of your constituents by denying this request made under docket #20240032-SU.

Sincerely,

Daveann Ceridon  
Carol Rowe

Sent from my iPad

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Chris Woodall <Chris@tranorindustries.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 11:40 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Subject:** RE: Docket #20240032-SU

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Please confirm that this was received and entered into the record.

I did not receive a reply that it was received as most others have.

Sincerely,

Chris Woodall  
9400 Little Gasparilla Island Rd

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**From:** Chris Woodall  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024 10:47 AM  
**To:** clerk@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU

Good morning,

My name is Chris Woodall and I am a homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island in Charlotte County within the proposed service area.

I would like to formally request the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater services for the following reasons –

We are a Bridgeless Barrier Island that has a unique “Old Florida” charm. We would like it to remain that way. Approving this application will only promote more development on the Island against the residents' desires.

The Island is still in the process of recovering from Hurricane Ian and more disruption to the landscape would be detrimental. We do not have public, traditional roads and many are simply shell paths over private property. To try to run a sewer system without public roads or roads able to accommodate construction equipment would be almost impossible.

EU is not a contractor that has won a bid to install sewer. The PSC approves certification based solely on four criteria: need for service, financial ability of the applicant, technical expertise of the applicant and fair/equitable rates and charges. Each of the other agencies (County, DEP, Army Corps, etc.) is responsible for supervising only their specific area where regulation and/or permitting is involved. There is no performance bond required and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure.

The applicant has not addressed how the system will be serviced in the event of failure during a storm or other adverse conditions. Each homeowner would need a generator at their own expense to ensure their system continues to run.

No water quality testing has been done in our area to prove a need for sewer. This project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species such as the gopher tortoise.

Finally, there has been no evidence provided that supports a need for service in the proposed service area. Expert witnesses at the last Administrative Hearing refuted the arguments that EU put forward supporting the need for service. Why are we doing this again?

Sincerely,

Chris Woodall

[Chris@tranorindustries.com](mailto:Chris@tranorindustries.com)

313-909-3799

9400 Little Gasparilla Island Road

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** lia gray <uncpair@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 11:20 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU

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To Whom It May Concern,

We are, and have been, property owners at 9810 & 9814 Little Gasparilla Island for over 30 years. We are writing to express our concerns regarding the low pressure central sewer system proposed by EU, LLC. Our primary concern is whether EU has the expertise to construct and adequately maintain the system. To our knowledge, EU has not done this type of project before. Constructing anything on a barrier island is met with unique challenges that require experience and expertise to address obstacles when they arise. Another major concern is the financial aspect. Will homeowners be required to pay a large sum of money up front without any guarantee that this system will be completed in a timely manner or completed at all? Who will maintain the system and provide service if EU becomes insolvent? We also are puzzled by the lack of information provided by EU. As homeowners, we have never received any communication regarding the plans or an attempt to explain why this would be beneficial to Little Gasparilla Island.

We are not opposed to a central sewer system on LGI, but do not think EU, LLC has the expertise to provide this service in a unique environment. **We are formally requesting that PSC deny EU's application to provide wastewater service on Little Gasparilla Island.**

--

Lelia C Gray  
[uncpair@gmail.com](mailto:uncpair@gmail.com)  
John H Gray, Jr.  
[jaygraywhfl@gmail.com](mailto:jaygraywhfl@gmail.com)

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Scott Almand <scott.almand@smrranch.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 10:59 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham  
**Cc:** Christa Almand; scotthbbc@gmail.com  
**Subject:** PSC Docket #20240032-SU

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Good morning,

My name is J. Scott Almand and I'm a homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island in Charlotte County within the proposed service area reference in **Docket #20240032-SU** currently at the PSC. I own a unit in the Hideaway Bay condominiums and I serve on the condo association board as Treasurer and Vice President.

I would like to formally request the PSC deny this application for wastewater services for the following reasons –

1. First and Foremost - The Island is still in the process of recovering from Hurricane Ian and more disruption to the landscape would be detrimental. We do not have public, traditional roads and many are simply shell paths over private property. To try to run a sewer system without public roads or roads able to accommodate construction equipment would be almost impossible.
2. Owners on the island are all financially strapped to the point of “breaking” after trying to recover from Hurricane Ian and then Idalia. This would put even more of a financial burden on many residents, dare I say to the point that they can not handle.
3. We are a Bridgeless Barrier Island that has a unique charm. We would like it to remain that way. Approving this application will only promote more development on the Island against the residents’ desires.
4. EU is not a contractor that has won a bid to install sewer. The PSC approves certification based solely on four criteria: need for service, financial ability of the applicant, technical expertise of the applicant and fair/equitable rates and charges. Each of the other agencies (County, DEP, Army Corps, etc.) is responsible for supervising only their specific area where regulation and/or permitting is involved. There is no performance bond required and we have no single point of recourse in the event of cost overruns or project failure.
5. The applicant has not addressed how the system will be serviced in the event of failure during a storm or other adverse conditions. Each homeowner would

need a generator at their own expense to ensure their system continues to run.

6. No water quality testing has been done in our area to prove a need for sewer. This project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species such as the gopher tortoise. Gopher tortoise relocation is extremely expensive, with cost estimates up to \$10,000 per individual relocation.
7. Finally, Expert witnesses at the last Administrative Hearing refuted the arguments that EU put forward supporting the need for service. Why are we doing this again when nothing has changed?

Specifically to Hideaway Bay Beach Club Condos – The proposed system is exactly the same as the current wastewater plant on our property that serves both HBBC and Placida Condos on LGI, just on a much larger scale. Requiring us to remove our system and connect to another system would be so unbelievably expensive and such a burden to the owners in hideaway that it might push some towards foreclosure. We have been unable to occupy or rent our units for the last 18 months as we continue to try and rebuild....this would be financially devastating to our unit owners.

Please add my email to Docket #20240032-SU

Sincerely,

J. Scott & Christa Almand  
[Scott.almand@smrranch.com](mailto:Scott.almand@smrranch.com)  
941-812-0715  
9400 Little Gasparilla Island Road