

Antonia Hover

From: Betty Leland
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 12:53 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket #20240032
Attachments: LGI Serer System; Docket #20240032-SU; FW: Docket# 20240032-SU; Docket # 20240032-SU; Opposition to Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for Wastewater Service; Sewer Docket 20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032-SU; Sewer LGI; Request to DENY Docket # 20240032-SU ; 20240032-SU docket #; Re: Docket #20240032-SU; Proposed EU application for wastewater services;; RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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
(850) 413-6024

Antonia Hover

From: Rick Jenkins <Rick.Jenkins@Quality-Roofing.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 5:28 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.u; Chris Brooks; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: LGI Serer System

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My wife Susan Jenkins and I are homeowners of several properties on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI) which is in the proposed service area in Environmental Utilities (EU) central sewer proposal.

We formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for original certification of authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

We strongly object to EUs proposal and application for certification. We request an administrative hearing be held before a ruling on the application. We also request status as a Party of Record so that we can participate in legal proceedings.

We as homeowners do not need this service or request this service.

We have many concerns regarding this proposal and have been homeowners of LGI for more than 20 years.

-First and foremost we invested in our current septic system which has served us very well throughout the years. This new proposed system is not needed and very expensive and adds additional burden for us as homeowners. Our original septic system that we were forced to install in 2006 is the aerator system that requires yearly service and fees to the Heath department of Charlotte County. We have used this system all this time and were forced to spend \$23,000.00 in 2006 when a normal septic system cost \$12,000.00 After all this time of spending extra money on a septic system, we are not willing to spend another exorbitant amount of money on a different system that does not meet our needs. We are in our 60's and close to retirement and can't afford this new system.

-It is our understanding that the connection charge of this system is estimated between \$13,000 to \$20,000 per homeowner and additional cost quarterly estimated at nearly \$200. An electric panel separate from our home will also be needed with additional cost.

-We as the homeowner will also need to invest in a generator to avoid sewage back up in the event of power outages. This is very concerning as power outages occur frequently on our island. Also, Hurricane Ian in 2022 was devastating for our island. We are still recovering from this major hurricane with our home still in repair.

-Another concern is that we have current dealings with this owner through Little Gasparilla Water and there are constant issues and unnecessary costs with monthly base fees of over \$200 per household plus usage.

We thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns and urge you to deny EU's application.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Jenkins | CEO | Quality Roofing, Inc.

1905 N 40th Street | Tampa, FL 33605

(813) 620-4797 Office | (813) 626-1756 Fax | Rick.Jenkins@Quality-Roofing.com

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Antonia Hover

From: Gary Richardson <traderrichardson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 5:13 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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

My wife (Robyn) and I oppose the approval of Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) application to the Public Service Commission (PSC) for the installation of central sewer on Don Pedro Island.

Our biggest concern is the applicant: Environmental Utilities LLC. On paper, EU simply does not have the experience on similar projects to be successful. Off paper, the EU principals have a bad reputation in the area for previous failed ventures.

- Need for Service. 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.
- Environmental. 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.
- The Costs. The costs of central sewer are quite considerable at a very bad time for Islanders. Many are still engaged with fighting their insurance companies for settlements from Hurricane Ian and have had to lay out large sums for their re-builds while they wait for compensation. Some owners have just paid deep-pocket sums to install new septic systems at their newly built or re-built homes. Many property owners simply do not have the resources available to convert from septic to sewer.

Please do not approve the application.

Gary & Robyn Richardson
301 S Gulf Blvd #22
Placida FL 33946

Antonia Hover

From: Susan Jenkins <Susan.Jenkins@Quality-Roofing.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 5:05 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: FW: Docket# 20240032-SU

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My husband Rick Jenkins and I are homeowners of several properties on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI) which is in the proposed service area in Environmental Utilities (EU) central sewer proposal.

We formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for original certification of authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

We strongly object to EUs proposal and application for certification. We request an administrative hearing be held before a ruling on the application. We also request status as a Party of Record so that we can participate in legal proceedings.

We as homeowners do not need this service or request this service.

We have many concerns regarding this proposal and have been homeowners of LGI for more than 20 years.

-First and foremost we invested in our current septic system which has served us very well throughout the years. This new proposed system is not needed and very expensive and adds additional burden for us as homeowners. Our original septic system that we were forced to install in 2006 is the aerator system that requires yearly service and fees to the Heath department of Charlotte County. We have used this system all this time and were forced to spend \$23,000.00 in 2006 when a normal septic system cost \$12,000.00 After all this time of spending extra money on a septic system, we are not willing to spend another exorbitant amount of money on a different system that does not meet our needs. We are in our 60's and close to retirement and can't afford this new system.

-It is our understanding that the connection charge of this system is estimated between \$13,000 to \$20,000 per homeowner and additional cost quarterly estimated at nearly \$200. An electric panel separate from our home will also be needed with additional cost.

-We as the homeowner will also need to invest in a generator to avoid sewage back up in the event of power outages. This is very concerning as power outages occur frequently on our island. Also, Hurricane Ian in 2022 was devastating for our island. We are still recovering from this major hurricane with our home still in repair.

-Another concern is that we have current dealings with this owner through Little Gasparilla Water and there are constant issues and unnecessary costs with monthly base fees of over \$200 per household plus usage.

We thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns and urge you to deny EU's application.

Sincerely,

Susan Jenkins | Marketing Director | **Quality Roofing, Inc.**

1905 N 40th Street | Tampa, FL 33605

(813) 620-4797 Office | (813) 626-1756 Fax | Susan.Jenkins@Quality-Roofing.com

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Antonia Hover

From: Robert Volpe <rvolpe@HoltzmanVogel.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 4:54 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: Kayla Kentnor; Louise Volpe
Subject: Docket # 20240032-SU; Opposition to Application for Original Certificate of Authorization and Initial Rates and Charges for Wastewater Service

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

Good afternoon,

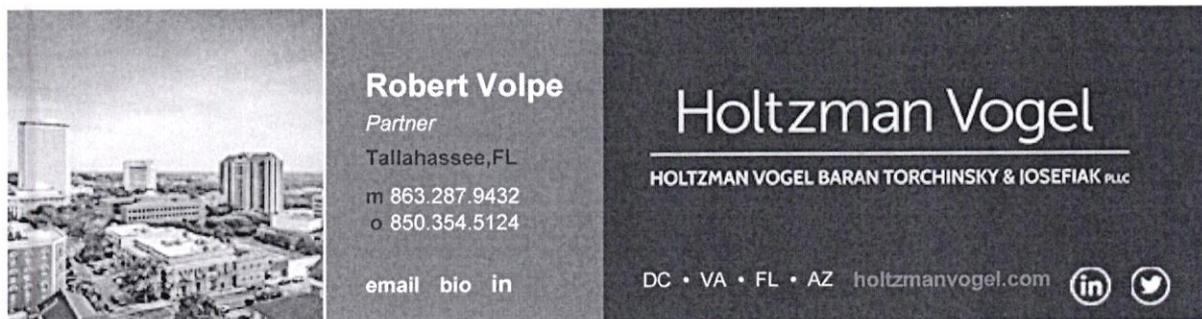
This is a request to be added as an interested person in docket # 20240032-SU on behalf of Louise Volpe.

Please send all relevant docket entries and notices to:

rvolpe@holtzmanvogel.com and

Kkentnor@holtzmanvogel.com

Thank you,



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This communication and any accompanying documents are confidential and privileged. They are intended for the sole use of the addressee. If you receive this transmission in error, you are advised that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or the taking of any action in reliance upon this communication is strictly prohibited. Moreover, any such disclosure shall not compromise or waive the attorney-client, accountant-client, or other privileges as to this communication or otherwise. If you have received this communication in error, please contact me at the above email address. Thank you.

DISCLAIMER

Any accounting, business or tax advice contained in this communication, including attachments and enclosures, is not intended as a thorough, in-depth analysis of specific issues, nor a substitute for a formal opinion, nor is it sufficient to avoid tax-related penalties. If desired, Holtzman Vogel Baran Torchinsky & Josefiak PLLC would be pleased to perform the requisite research and provide you with a detailed written analysis. Such an engagement may be the subject of a separate engagement letter that would define the scope and limits of the desired consultation services.

From: Louise Volpe <loubreez570@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 4:18 PM

To: Robert Volpe <rvolpe@holtzmanvogel.com>

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

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Records Clerk** <CLERK@psc.state.fl.us>

Date: Thu, Apr 25, 2024 at 3:53 PM

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

To: Louise Volpe <loubreez570@gmail.com>

Cc: Consumer Contact <Contact@psc.state.fl.us>

Good afternoon Louise Volpe,

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20240032, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Best regards,

Charlie Smith II

Office of Commission Clerk

Florida Public Service Commission

2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.

Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

850-413-6770

PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your email message may be subject to public disclosure

From: Louise Volpe <loubreez570@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 3:36 PM

To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Chairman 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>; Office of Commissioner Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of

Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>

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

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

Antonia Hover

From: floridabuckeye 362 <floridabuckeye362@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 3:52 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: Sewer Docket 20240032-SU

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

Commissioners:

My wife and I are Rodney and Alice Henderson. We have owned our home on Little Gasparilla Island for 24 years and are writing to strongly and formally request that the PSC deny EU's application for wastewater service
We can not believe that Jack Boyer is once again pushing his sewer system.

The reasons against his plans still exist. I can list a few.

The electric system on the island is under severe strain. We lose power several times a year. What will happen then?

This is a harsh environment, with salt mist in the air and salt water incursion from high tides. Our yard was flooded twice in the last 8 months by over a foot of sea water. Any equipment suffers with more maintenance requirements and a much shorter lifespan. Especially electrical equipment.

Movement of service vehicles is severely restricted due to our narrow sandy trails and dense vegetation. Many of the trails would have to be widened and would destroy the look of the island. This is a special place and I know of no other like it.

As I stated when he last applied, Jack Boyer has no experience installing or operating a sewage system !! This is not the place for him to be learning. A mistake here could cause severe impact with limited resources to deal with the situation.

Just yesterday, I rode past a water meter that is close to the trail. It had been run over by equipment, the water line coming from it was broken and had flooded the trail. What if it was sewage?

There is no consideration for septic tanks in good working condition. In 24 years we have not had a problem with ours.

We are retired on fixed incomes. I'm 74 & my wife is 79. After our recovery from hurricane IAN & flooding from Idalia we are at our limit financially and emotionally. The greed of this man "Jack Boyer" will force us to leave our home on Little Gasparilla Island.

In his newsletter April 2024 Chairman La Rosa mentions reliability and reasonable rates are areas where the PSC can help.

I think these should be a consideration and once again ask that you DENY EU's application.

We can't afford this and don't need it.

Your consideration is appreciated,

Rodney & Alice Henderson

8848 Bay St.

Little Gasparilla Island

floridabuckeye362@gmail.com



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Antonia Hover

From: Dona Cabela <cdjean20@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 3:27 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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Hello Commissioners:

I am sending this letter regarding Environmental Utilities and the installation of a central sewer on the Islands.

I want to start with a firm request to "deny" E.U's application for wastewater service to our barrier islands. Not only do we (the majority) not want this, we do not need it.

I do not have anything negative to say about the family that owns E.U, my reservation is for the following reasons.

1st: We will still have a sewer system and a pump. Currently, if we lose power we are still able to flush our toilets as long as we have water. With this new system unless you have a generator you will be unable to flush your towel. That will be a nightmare.

2nd: This is a for-profit company without any experience owning or running a wastewater utility company.

3rd: The expense is going to be placed on the homeowner. For us this is going to run us more than the average; we face the loss of a previously installed underground propane tank (1.000 gallons). We were informed a couple of years ago this line would run directly in front of our house. This is exactly where our propane tank is buried. Along with our house generator which is located on the north side of our house; we will stand to lose. This cost us over \$55,000 for that project; which we only had installed 4 years ago. During permitting we were told this was the only place we could bury the propane tank. If this goes through we will lose our house generator, and have the added expense to have this all removed. Not to mention we had our entire house transferred to gas. This is a huge hardship. This can all be avoided. Please deny E.U the permit to install this central sewer system.

4th: I believe the environmental impact of so many unforeseen issues that will arise from this could be devastating. If something should go sideways; the commissioners that voted for this will be held responsible. (not legally, but in the eyes of your constituents).

5th: I am sure you are all aware of the delicate dance we have of getting off and on this island we already face; with all this heavy equipment and the length of time this will take will have a far more negative impact. Homeowners; rental companies, workers that already come here etc.

I thank you for taking the time to read this letter and realize that we not only don't want this system but we don't need it. This is only a person/company out to make money and cause undue stress and hardship to so many people. He has already been denied before. Please do the right thing and continue to not support this.

Have a good day

Respectfully
Dona Cabela (homeowner)
110 N. Gulf Blvd
Placida, FL 33946
Knights Island

cdjean20@gmail.com

Antonia Hover

From: Tony December <tonydecember727@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 3:16 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: Docket #20240032-SU

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

To our Commissioners:

We have once again received notice from Environmental Utilities, LLC that they are applying to provide wastewater services to our islands.

We vehemently oppose the installation of sewer systems. We've owned a home on Don Pedro Island for 22 yrs and have enjoyed the peace and natural beauty of the area.

We just replaced our septic in 2018, it works fine. We see no point in changing something that works - a sewer installation that's going to tear up our roads and property, disturb our fragile estuaries and wildlife, create havoc in traveling around the island during an installation.

I understand the estimated startup cost per property is appr \$13,000. and we will have an additional monthly bill to add to our water, electric and cable bills, not to mention incidental costs associated with the electrical panels or service to run everything. NO Thank you.

Please consider the homeowners that will bear the costs and the land that will be forever changed and probably not for the better.

Tracy and Tony December
290 South Gulf Blvd #31
Don Pedro

Antonia Hover

From: dave ferri <kdisland@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 7:39 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: Joel D Piktel
Subject: Sewer LGI
Attachments: swwer lgi.pages

We are property owners on Little Gasparilla Island, specifically at 8594 Marsh Ave, Placidia , Fl. 33946. We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed central sewer project on Little Gasparilla Island. We are formally requesting that the Public Service Commission deny the application for wastewater service proposed by Environmental Utilities, LLC. It appears this request is not driven by the needs of the island, but only to benefit a business that has no experience installing sewers. The proposed project has major implications and costs to the environment and island residents. Our major concerns include:

1. As homeowners, we have major concerns about mandatory hookup requirements. We are not willing or able to pay extraordinary costs to convert to a new system when there is nothing wrong with our current septic that we maintain. We are not willing or able to pay the cost of additional electric service if and the potential cost of installing a new or added panel. We see this as an unwarranted and expensive complication of what has been a simple, affordable, and reliable septic system that we have used for decades without any problems.
2. The proposed monthly residential cost for service is reported to be extremely high and not acceptable. The rates being discussed are above and beyond current rates on the mainland and would be a totally new monthly expense for Little Gasparilla Island homeowners.
3. The proposed system's reliability and maintenance is unproven. Environmental Utilities, LLC has not demonstrated any technical expertise with this type of project, nor do they have a proven record that they can safely and reliably service the proposed system. If a central sewer system is proven to be an urgent need for the barrier islands, it should be installed and

maintained as a municipal project with county and state officials responsible and accountable for the project's oversight and success.

4. The installation of sewer lines, tanks, and pumps at each property presents a large and immediate impact to the nature and landscape of the island. This disruption has the potential to harm our local wildlife, such as our cherished gopher tortoise population, which is included in the Florida Endangered and Threatened Species List. The installation project activities would also endanger and damage the island's vegetation that we have carefully and thoughtfully maintained for decades. The ongoing risk to the environment due to future potential system failures in the event of storms is much greater and more severe than the current private property septic system. One storm can cause much more environmental harm in the event of damage to a central sewer system than to a residential septic tank.

5. The need for electric pumps at each property presents a new burden on Little Gasparilla Island's electricity supply. We have concerns that this burden on the existing electrical infrastructure could lead to a risk of fires. A proliferation of propane generators being used to prevent sewer back up in case of power outages also presents an increased risk of fires on Little Gasparilla Island.

Thank you,

Kathy and Dave Ferri

Antonia Hover

From: Candyce Cohen <candycecohen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 11:42 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: Request to DENY Docket #20240032-SU
Attachments: CC Docket20240032-SU.pdf

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Hello Commissioners,

My name is Candyce Cohen and I am a full-time, year-round resident of Don Pedro Island in the proposed service area having first purchased a home here in 1990. My primary and only residence is on Don Pedro Island. I am writing to request that you **DENY** this latest EU application for Service. I have provided my reasoning, documentation and concerns in the attached PDF

Thank you very much for your service and consideration of my position.

Respectfully submitted,

Candyce Cohen
8 Pointe Way
Don Pedro Island
candycecohen@gmail.com

EMAIL TO:

Clerk of the Commission clerk@psc.state.fl.us

COPY TO:

Commissioner LaRosa: Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us

Commissioner Clark: Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us

Commissioner Passidomo: Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us

Commissioner Graham: Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us

Commissioner Fay: Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us

SUBJECT: DENY Request for Docket #20240032-SU

April 26, 2024

Hello Commissioners,

My name is Candyce Cohen and I am a full-time, year-round resident of Don Pedro Island in the proposed service area having first purchased a home here in 1990. My primary and only residence is on Don Pedro Island. I am writing to request that you **DENY** this latest EU application for Service.

NOT A DEVELOPER

I am writing to this commission, once again, to ask that you DENY Environmental Utilities LLC's (EU) application to provide wastewater service to this area. I wrote you once before and spoke to you at a local hearing just two short years ago. I reviewed the application to see what if anything has changed and not a lot has. I do not the application has the support of several developers including one who submitted 21 separate letters requesting service and another who sent in 3 along with a handful of Little Gasparilla Island owners. Reviewing the docket to date, I see more multiple submissions from another 4 developers – one with 7 letters, another with 4 letters, then 3 letters. Reviewing the supporters, I see only a half dozen individual homeowners requesting service and one is the daughter of EU's principal, Jack Boyer. One EU supporter blamed 17 deaths on raw sewage from septic overflow on Little Gasparilla Island following Hurricane Ian. I know the hurricane was devastating, but I somehow missed this headline.

My husband and I are NOT developers, we're just islanders who have worked hard to build our dream home here. We support the Bocilla Islands Conservancy, pick up litter on the beach and try to help neighbors in need and keep our septic tank inspected and maintained.

SEWAGE FLOWS VIA PUMP EXCEPT WHEN POWER IS OUT – THEN IT OVERFLOWS

Hurricane Ian's devastating landfall on the barrier islands has taken a significant toll, costing islanders a lot of time, money and emotion in rebuilding. Many have not been able to complete due to challenges with insurance carriers. The power and water outages for over a week following landfall were difficult, but I remain thankful that we were not on the central sewer solution such as the one proposed by EU which requires each property owner to have electricity to pump waste out of what is essentially a small holding tank. Loss of power for any extended period would lead to an environmental disaster as these much smaller tanks are all connected.

Evaluation of Standards for Low Pressure Sewer Systems

Sarasota County – ESBC Utilities

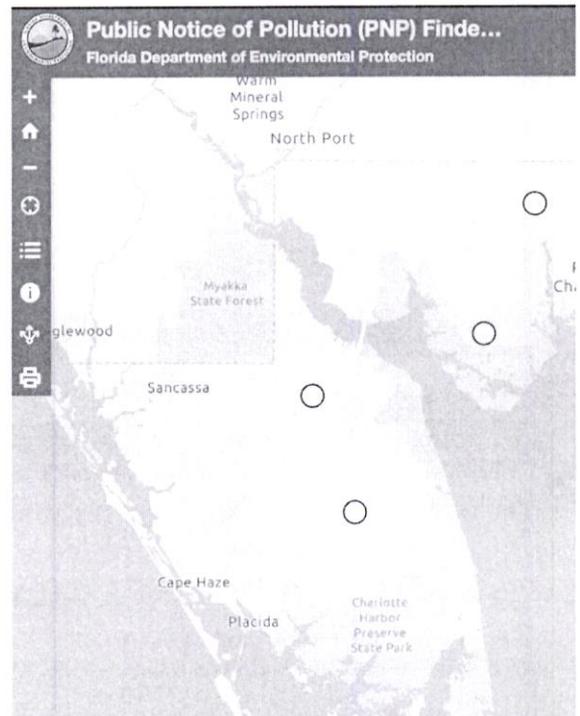
Section 6 - Survey of Florida Communities Using Low Pressure Grinder Pumps Systems

Their units do not have an emergency power receptacle. In the event of a power outage, if they need to perform an emergency pump down, they would hardwire the system.

During the last three hurricane seasons, there were instances where the power was out for up to three days. For the commercial properties, it was the property owner's responsibility to pump down their own system. For the single family homeowners, it was the County's responsibility to pump down the systems. However, the County advised the residents to pop the top on the clean out and let the sewage flow in the yard so that it would not back up into the house. The county did not go out to pump down the units with a generator.

The pumps had some maintenance issues as well. After about 6-8 years, the pumps began to have problems. They found that the ABS Piranha 09 model had fewer problems than the E-one. The E-one pumps had some manufacturer defects that the manufacturer replaced. The source of the problem was a defect that allowed water to enter the section of the station lid where the electrical components were housed, resulting in electrical failures.

With the landfall of Hurricane Ian, sewage spills have not made the top headlines, but the state PNP (Pollution Notice Reporting) publishes sewer and wastewater spills. Since 2019 Charlotte County had more than 120 spills with nearly 6.6m gallons of wastewater lost to the environment. In the past 2 years, there have been an additional 40k gallons of wastewater across 5 spills from lift stations and pumps failing. Of this, a mere 300 gallons was recovered. The rest went into our land and waterways. In the past 30 days, there have additional incidents registered in Charlotte County.



Incident Name	SWO Incid	Incident Report	Gallons	Recover	Report Date
18091 Avonsdale Cir 4-16-24	202403290	Incident Description: LPS pump failed, which caused the tank to fill and overflow. New pump was installed with new float sensors. 300 gallons spilled, with 150 gallons collected with Vacuum truck. 23-30 gallons entered the storm drain at	300	150	04/17/2024 05
Liftstation # 210 overflow	20238502	Incident Description: We received a high-level alarm at our Lift Station # 210 at about 20:30 on 10/12/2023. Heavy rain had created high flows and high pressures in our collections system. When another lift station pumped to this	10000	0	10/13/2023 12
2022-1117 Reclaim spill Edgew	20229531	Incident Description: Contractor broke off the air release valve(ARV), while removing old pipe on the job site. A thrust block fell off old pipe onto the ARV, breaking the pipe below the ARV. The valve feeding the ARV was located and	10500	0	11/18/2022 12
2022-0609 Reclaim ARV Break	20224230	Incident Description: Reclaim break in 2" line. Shut valve at main. Break will be repaired on 6/6/2022.	3500	0	06/09/2022 07
2022-0604 Reclaim Break	20224008	Approximately 15,000 gallons of reclaimed water spilled. No waterways affected.	15000	0	06/04/2022 02

The devastation from these bulk sewage spills has proven far-reaching impacts to our water quality, many multiples of the impact from low density septic tank usage.

> 120 Charlotte County Sewage Spills (since 2019) of nearly 6.6m gallons of Wastewater

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

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POLLUTION NOTICE

Enterprise Solutions

Incident Name	Incident Report	Gallons	Recover	Facility	Release	Hours	Affected
Cypress Pkwy Reclaimed Water Mai	On December 11, 2020 at 7pm a 12" reclaimed water main malfunctioned causing a break. On December 12, 2020 at 10:45 the line br	2,760,000		MSKFP To 12/11/2020		22	Charlotte
3100 Loveland Blvd	On 2/20/2021 @ 3:30AM crews responded to a force main break at 3100 Loveland Blvd. Port Charlotte. During rerouting of a force main	1,060,000	860,000	East Port 02/20/2021		35	Charlotte
Reclaim Break 05272021 CCPW 77	Customer's irrigation system main line broke and spilled approximately 425,000 gallons of reclaimed water. Shut off customer's meter	425,000		Charlotte 05/27/2021		114	Charlotte
Cannon Ct. and Telegraph Creek	Approximately 385,000 gallons of treated effluent was released due to a break in a 10" pipe. No cleanup actions are required for this spill	385,000		MSKFP To 06/07/2019		2	Charlotte
Reclaim Break 06012021 CCPW 54C	Customer's irrigation system main line broke and spilled approximately 268,000 gallons of reclaim water. Shut off customer's meter	268,000		Charlotte 06/30/2021		49	Charlotte
Curry Preserve Extension	Contractor broke an 18" reuse line excavating and laying electrical lines. Incident time was 1-21-2020 at 9:00am and repaired complete	240,000		MSKFP To 01/20/2020		25	Charlotte
1409 Redo Oak Ln	On 6/28/2020 @ 9:00am crews responded to a FM break behind 1409 Redo Oak Ln. on Quesada Ave. A 20" force main was found to hav	200,000	120,000	East Port 06/28/2020		3	Charlotte
6470 Coliseum B	Amount of Discharge - 160,000 gallons raw wastewater	160,000		Charlotte 04/18/2019		12	Charlotte
Quesada 20" FM	behind address 1423 Red Oak Ln. A hole was found in a	150,000	125,000	East Port 06/07/2020		3	Charlotte
Charlotte County	nd vault - incident lasted approximately 3 hours before be	108,000	43,500	East Port 01/27/2020		3	Charlotte
CCU Loveland at Dan Heleski	increased canal. On 1/23/2022 @ 6:00pm crews responded	108,000	80,000	Eastport 10/23/2022		2	Charlotte
2511 Luther Rd	Estimated spill of 70,000 gallons of reclaimed water. Con	70,000		Charlotte 09/24/2020		21	Charlotte
8675 Placida RD	1 Luther Road, Port Charlotte, Florida. Our excavator hit	60,000		Charlotte 01/11/2021		4	Charlotte
25905 Harborside	Rd. in Punta Gorda. A contractor working for Charlotte C	56,000	54,000	East Port 01/11/2021		1	Charlotte
CHARLOTTE CI	parts for repair. Estimated repair time 1 week. Estimated t	50,000		Charlotte 01/19/2022		1	Charlotte
Waienda overflow	erty addressed 25095 Harborside Rd. in Burnt Store. A	48,800		Burnt Sto 11/16/2020		1	Charlotte
	OST DUE TO A 4 INCH REUSE LINE BREAK AT CHAR	40,000		CHARLO 11/11/2019		3	Charlotte
	nel to investigate, found	40,000		Charlotte 05/20/2019		1	Charlotte

More than 400,000 gallons of sewage spills in Venice



100k gallons of sewage spills from pipe in Charlotte County community

1 MILLION GALLON OF WASTE WATER SPILLED

1 million gallons of untreated wastewater spilled in Charlotte County

A million gallons of untreated wastewater spilled in a Southwest Florida county as crews were working to improve the area's sewage system.

Public Notice of Pollution (PNP) Finder: Last 30 Days

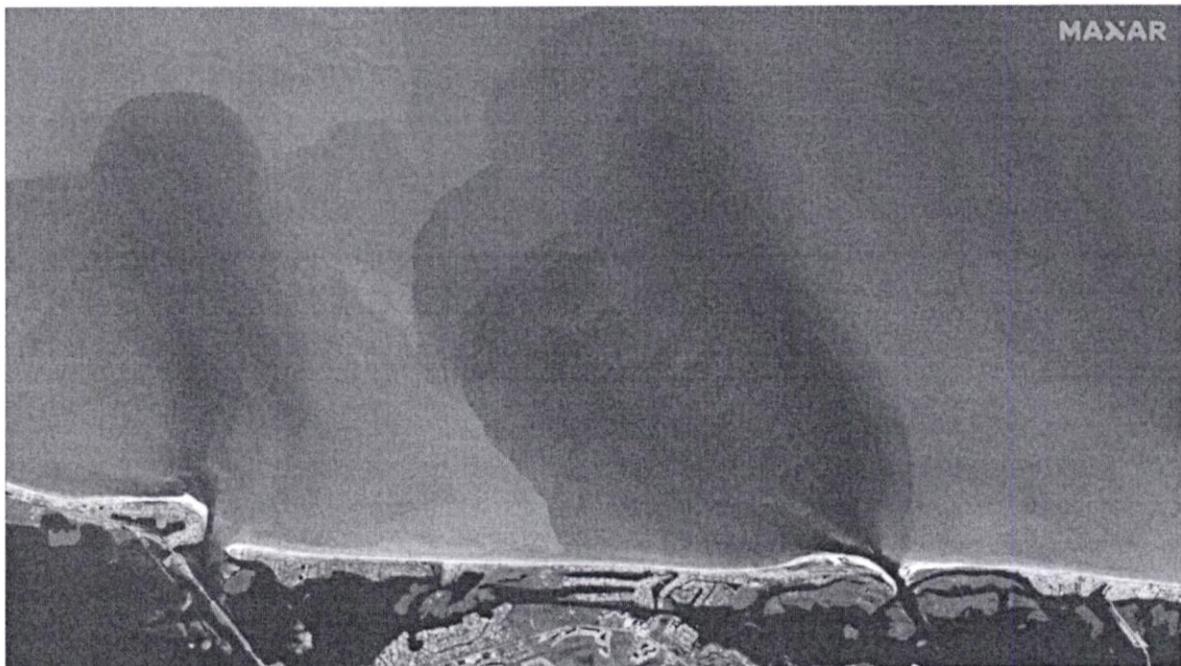
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Incident #	Incident Name	Report	Report Date/Time	Facility Name	Facility Address
2022355	8675 Placida RD main break	Reclaim Main break: possible fitting failure. Isolated section of pipe. Awaiting parts for repair. Estimated repair time 1 week. Estimated 50,000 gallons of reclaim water spilled.	1/20/2022, 5:17 AM	Charlotte County Utilities	2550 Harborview RD Suite 3

WATER QUALITY AND NITROGEN LEVELS

No local water studies have shown that septic tanks are damaging island waters– but CCU’s own Sewer Master Plan shows groundwater and watershed flows. Higher nitrogen levels are found in both fertilizer and reclaimed wastewater used to irrigate the several golf courses that flow directly into Lemon Bay. This nitrogen-rich runoff also exacerbates any red tide issues.

If the county is focused on local water quality, Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) would follow the lead of neighboring Sarasota, Manatee and Lee counties and prioritize work with Charlotte Harbor’s National Estuary Program (CHNEP) to upgrade wastewater treatment to Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) standards reducing excess nutrient in reclaimed wastewater – again which all flow into Lemon Bay. In the wake of Hurricane Ian, several wastewater treatment plants around the state dumped raw sewage into Florida Waterways. From the October 2, 2022 Bloomberg article highlighting the service area, note the sewage is flowing through the passes into the gulf and NOT from the individual island septic tanks.



A view shows sediment discharging to sea after Hurricane Ian hits Don Pedro Island, in Florida, U.S. September 30, 2022. Courtesy of 2022 Maxar Technologies/Handout via REUTERS.

Hurricane Ian Dumped Raw Sewage Into Florida Waterways

Bloomberg

Total Views: 6384 📄

October 2, 2022

In these articles, Professor LaPointe makes his position clear – that billions will need to be spent on sewer infrastructure for many of these urban areas. Urban does not describe our barrier island community.

Charlotte County has a third of the population density of the counties to our north and south. Our islands do not support high-rise, multifamily nor commercial developments. Our delicate island environment is at much greater risk of pollution from centralized sewage spills than any low-density septic tank issues.

The counties north and south acknowledge sewage spills happen and have focused on protecting sensitive estuaries by implementing Advanced Wastewater Treatment to reduce excess nitrogen and nutrients in reclaimed water.

Charlotte County Utilities should prioritize upgrading to AWT standards removing red-tide fueling nutrient from wastewater before dismantling functioning low-density tanks (OSTDS).

The cost of these upgrades can be offset in full or in part with Clean Water / Clean Waterways funding and grants. EU as a private, “for-profit”

limited liability “utility” has no standing to garner Clean Water / Clean Waterways funds. The nature of a Limited Liability Corporation providing this service provides no recourse to the public or the county for any costly mistakes and does not meet criteria for Clean Water grants or other financing alternatives. The limited liability nature of the LLC limits public and private funding opportunities.

Central sewer provided by an inexperienced, private, for-profit entity and NOT by a qualified, municipal utility is NOT REASONABLE environmentally or economically.



The image is a screenshot of a news article from BNN Bloomberg. The header shows the BNN Bloomberg logo and navigation links for NEWS, LIVE, VIDEO, SHOWS, and MORE. The main text of the article is as follows:

“I’d say this is going to be unprecedented,” LaPointe said in a phone interview. “We are anticipating seeing a number of these algal blooms in the wake of Hurricane Ian.”

One model the state could look to in the future is in the Florida Keys. Monroe County spent about \$1 billion on a septic-to-sewer upgrade that included new, tightly sealed pipes to keep stormwater out and an advanced wastewater treatment system to remove nitrogen, preventing algal blooms that damage coral reefs. The water is then injected more than 3,000 feet underground, LaPointe said. The area reported no sewage spills after Irma, despite being flooded, he added.

“This is really where I think Florida is going to be heading in the future,” LaPointe said. “We are going to have to spend billions of dollars in many of these urban areas.”

CONCLUSION:

I want to be able to continue living in my island home, but I already pay amongst the highest water rates in the state to a private utility. Even considering another private utility much less a Limited Liability Corporate for sewer service with no ability to make use of Clean Water grants and funding options is an incomprehensible proposition our county is promoting.

Before considering disruption to our carefully protected environment, we would need to see evidence of the need for service from our LOCAL waters – not some urban, East Coast studies – and evidence that water quality issues are attributable to low density septic tanks – and not the millions of gallons of nitrogen-enriched runoff from commercial activities surrounding Lemon Bay, If these were our actual conditions, the our county should not shirk responsibility and subject our residents to another private, for-profit company with scant experience. Counties to the north and south have undertaken improvements to reduce nitrogen levels in their treated water thereby reducing the nitrogen-load of reclaimed water runoff into Lemon Bay.

We just went through this process less than 2 years ago and we still have yet to see EVIDENCE of the need for this project from our LOCAL, LOW DENSITY Waters. In that time, we endured Hurricane Ian, rebuild to whatever extent possible our homes and our lives and here we are again facing another round with EU

- still a private for-private LLC
- still with scant to no experience
- still with no access to funding/grants for municipalities who undertaking these projects
- still with no guarantee - other than it is a for-profit company that will always take the highest rate increases available.

EU offers neither a SAFE, REASONABLE nor RELIABLE solution for our community. For all the reasons I have stated, I respectfully ask that the commission **DENY** EU's request for service.

Thank you very much for your patience reading this and I am happy to support or clarify any of these arguments,

Respectfully submitted,

Candyce Cohen
8 Pointe Way
Don Pedro Island, FL
candycecohen@gmail.com

Antonia Hover

From: Julie Watts <watts7@earthlink.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 27, 2024 1:04 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: 20240032-SU docket #

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

Hello

I am opposed the the proposed application for sewer for HideawayBay on Little Gasparilla Island. We have a great sewer system and if changes are made we will have an empurmous expense and be paying outrageeous fees. May will have to go into foreclosure- We aren not a wealthy community. Please Please Please do not allow!!

S

Sincerely Julie and Bob Watts

Jay Keller

K4

Antonia Hover

From: DONALD NIVER <dgniver@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 27, 2024 7:39 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

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'm urgently encouraging you all to deny EU's application for wastewater service to Don Pedro Island, Palm Island/Knight Island, Thornton Key, and Little Gasparilla Island. I'm sure you've heard all the reasons why this is a terrible idea. I know of no one who owns property or even who visits there, who feels this is a good idea. There has been no request that I'm aware of from property owners or residents for this service. Financially, the initial cost to owners will be exorbitant, and if it becomes a reality, we will incur ongoing routine expenses significantly over what our current costs are, which is understandable since this is a private, for profit company requesting to provide this unwanted "service". And this is not even an experienced, proven company, which we would all be required to use. If a major storm hits with electrical outages, most everyone will be in a sewage mess till that can be resolved. Environmentally, it could well be a disaster. The service set up will destroy habitat on the islands and pose possible major contamination of the intercostal waterway in the event of a pipe leak or break.

If it were proven, without question, that the current system is a danger environmentally, and that the new system would pose fewer problems, it would be worth looking at, but to me it looks as though we'd be trading to a worse and much more expensive, unneeded and unwanted system.

These are extraordinary islands and there aren't many like them anymore. We need to do everything in our power to maintain them in the least obtrusive way we can.

I thank you for reading my ramblings and hope you consider the opinions of the actual property owners and residents of these amazing islands.

Sally N Kimbrell
William L Kimbrell
301 S Gulf Blvd
Colony Don Pedro, unit 27
Don Pedro Island
813-758-8873
dgniver@aol.com
sallynkimbrell@gmail.com

Antonia Hover

From: kevinkendall@verizon.net
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 10:44 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: Mfriedman@deanmead.com
Subject: Proposed EU application for wastewater services,

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

Hello Commissioners,

This letter is being written in regards to the proposed EU application for wastewater services on Little Gasparilla Island--Docket# 20240032-SU.

As a homeowner at Hideaway Bay Beach Club, we are satisfied with our current system of wastewater services and are *NOT seeking sewers*. The disruption, cost, and environmental impacts will be detrimental to Hideaway and our island.

Please consider denying Jack Boyer's application to install sewers on Little Gasparilla Island. He has his own personal gains in mind instead of the island and it's residents' best interest.

Please provide confirmation of receipt of this email.

Thank you,
Kevin and Pamela Kendall

kevinkendall@verizon.net

Antonia Hover

From: Colin Sue-A-Quan <colin.sue-a-quan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 11:01 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: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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

Hello,

I own a house at 9752 Little Gasparilla Island and would like to formally ask you to deny Environment Utilities (EU) application to install central sewer on the barrier islands especially Little Gasparilla Island (LGI).

No proven need for wastewater services

LGI is low density with a handful of full-time residents with the rest of the houses used occasionally on weekends as vacation homes. Additionally, there has been no feasibility or environmental study that can point to any environmental benefit of changing systems for such a sparsely populated area.

Mandatory hook-up and no grand-fathering of septic systems

Charlotte County requires all homes to connect to central wastewater service within 1 year of service, but our existing septic system is less than 3 years old. We made a conscious decision to take care of the environment and install a new septic system and drain field but if this application is approved, it would mean we would be forced to replace our system with a smaller tank with more potential failure points. How is this better for the environment?

Low Pressure System

If this is indeed the system EU is proposing this is essentially a glorified drain field and still leaves the solids on the island which will require occasional pumping and what about when electricity goes which happens pretty frequently.

Impact to the island

With the Hurricane Ian cleanup we saw how devastating the large machinery was to have on the island but that was a necessity for us to rebuild. The central sewer installation will have a devastating effect on our island and not something we want to go through again with the heavy machinery

Extreme Costs

The initial cost for hookup has been mentioned at \$12,000 but overruns in the project would be at the expense of the homeowners. Additionally, it's not just a one time financial burden, but then monthly we would have to spend \$200 just for sewer would result in an added \$2,400 annually for a service that we do not need and that can be easily handled with our new septic system. This burden will put us into debt and force some homeowners off the island. We are already dealing with debt from Hurricane Ian and the rising property taxes and insurance costs so to add \$2,400 per year is definitely not something we should be forced to take on.

Private entity

If there is a truly a demonstrated need, why is Charlotte County not taking the lead on this versus allowing a new utility with zero experience of installing or running a wastewater service. It can be done in a more responsible and fiscal manner.

Please deny the application for wastewater services as it is not needed for Little Gasparilla Island.

Sincerely,
Colin Sue-A-Quan