

Jacob Veauhn

From: Jacob Veauhn on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 9:04 AM
To: 'Julie Imig'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: {BULK} Docket # 20200226

Good Morning, Julie Imig

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20200226 and forwarding your comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Jacob Veauhn

Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
Jacob.Veauhn@psc.state.fl.us
850.413.6656

From: Julie Imig <julie.imig@imig-llc.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 1:49 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; mfriedman@deanmead.com
Cc: George Shopp <george@shopnonclin.com>
Subject: {BULK} Docket # 20200226
Importance: Low

Commission Clerk
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
240 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida

Re: Docket No. 20200226-Su

Dear Commissioners,

My husband and I own the property at 9866 Little Gasparilla Island, which is within the service area contained in the application from Environmental Utilities, LLC [EU] for central sewer. As homeowners on Little Gasparilla Island, **we are requesting you to reject the application by Environmental Utilities (EU) to install wastewater (sewers) to the properties listed in docket #20200226 in Charlotte County.**

We object to the Application of Certificate based on the following:

1. Financial Stability/Experience/ Management capability of EU. Environmental Utilities (EU) is a "for profit" private company with no financial history and unknown sewer utility management experience regarding environmentally sensitive endeavors such as tying a sewer line from the mainland to a private barrier island. EU should be required to provide a history of all sewer projects of this magnitude, especially since it involves environmentally sensitive areas including the intracoastal waterway. In addition, there is no proof that EU has secured any commitment for financing or awarded any grants to successfully complete this project. What

happens if EU runs out of money or goes bankrupt prior to the completed project? EU should provide detailed information regarding how this sewer project will be financed. We have experienced numerous outages and even billing errors (billed twice for the same period) by EU in the 4 years we've owned our property, therefore have concerns about their ability to manage such a project. In addition, we only received notice of this project via postings by other homeowners on Facebook and through the LGIPOA, which erodes our confidence they will provide the transparency we should expect as property owners. Our current contact information is on our property records, and we receive invoices from EU's water service through the mail.

2. Unknown Cost to Homeowners. An estimated upfront fee of \$20,000-\$25,000 per homeowner has been rumored regarding connection and septic removal but no breakdown for this cost has been provided, nor a basis for the amount. In addition, no estimated costs of monthly rates, maintenance or operational costs have been provided. A total system cost should be broken down by all components and provided to all homeowners. Also, there should be other payment options available for homeowners instead of an "upfront" fee, such as payments spread over time. We have also not been presented with an alternative bid or costs if project conducted by the county.

3. Failing Waste System on the Mainland. The waste management system in Florida is already overtaxed. How will the system handle additional households from the barrier islands, along with new development on the mainland? How will a pipe leak in the middle of the intracoastal waterway be detected and who is responsible for cleanup and maintenance? Millions of gallons of raw sewage have been spilled into waterways by damaged lines throughout the State of Florida; therefore, is a sewer pipeline across the waterway the correct solution?

4. Location of Lift Station(s) and Sewer Lines. No map has been provided indicating the location of any lift stations, lines, etc. The island is private; therefore, no easements. Homeowners should be provided with a map(s) of the proposed location of all lift stations, lines, etc. and given ample time to review such plans prior to any commencement. 6. Official Notice to Respond. The 30-day notice does not appear to have been delivered to all homeowners on the island; therefore, not every homeowner has been given the appropriate chance to respond.

5. Ecological damage to Little Gasparilla Island: LGI has no roads, only sand paths for access. Installation of this sewer system/ the laying of pipe on the island using heavy equipment digging through the hard pan potentially risks island-wide flooding during high tides and heavy rains.

Possible Alternatives:

1. Property owners commit to have **current septic systems inspected**, and upgraded/improved (if necessary).
2. County to initiate, complete and maintain the project, and that tax dollars are used to cover costs.

Thank you for including my husband, George Shopp, and I as interested parties in this matter.

Sincerely,

Julie Imig

Julie Imig
860 Willowbrook Road
Julie.imig@imig-llc.com
720 352 0307