

Lisa Smith

From: Hannah Barker
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 1:11 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket Correspondence
Attachments: Docket #20200226-SU; Formal request to DENY Environmental Utilities Docket # 20200226-SU; Docket # 20200226-SU; Docket #20200226-SU

Good afternoon,

Please place the attached emails in Docket No. 20200226.

Hannah E. Barker
Executive Assistant to Commissioner Clark
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6004

Lisa Smith

From: James Greenbaum <jamesgreenbaum@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 12:42 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Hello,

My name is James Greenbaum. I am a Florida resident at 170 Kettle Harbor Drive, Placida, FL 33946.

I am very concerned about EU's application for a private wastewater service. I do not feel there is a need for this service. Furthermore, I never inquired, or requested any service like this. I take excellent care of my private septic system.

The owner of EU has no experience or expertise in this area of business, and this concerns me. He has not provided proof of financial security to take on such a project, causing even more concern. There is no evidence or reason for their rate structure, and no information provided by them regarding the structure of charges in the future.

It is my opinion that this project application should be denied. I am worried not only for myself, but for other residents as well.

James Greenbaum

James Greenbaum
170 Kettle Harbor Drive
Placida, FL 33946

978-815-1577 cell

Lisa Smith

From: bocilla@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 12:36 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Formal request to DENY Environmental Utilities Docket #20200226-SU
Attachments: Wilkins PSC Letter Docket #20200226-SU .pdf; ATT00001.htm

January
24, 2022

Clerk of the Commission clerk@psc.state.fl.us
Commissioner LaRosa: Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us
Commissioner Clark: Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us
Commissioner Passidomo: Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us

SUBJECT: Docket #20200226-SU

Dear Commissioners and Clerk of the Commission.

My name is Marcia Wilkins. My husband Gary and I have been fulltime residents on Don Pedro Island since we built in 1989, and part-time residents before then. We are writing to formally request that the Public Service Commission DENY Environmental Utilities LLC's (EU) application under Docket #20200226-SU for wastewater service.

We ask that the EU application be **DENIED** for the following reasons:

1. **Lack of technical expertise:** EU personnel have no experience operating a wastewater service.
2. **No demonstrated need for wastewater service for our local waters:** We are not aware of any environmental studies or water quality testing showing a need for central sewer for our local Lemon Bay and northern Charlotte Harbor waters.
3. **No grandfathering of existing/new septic systems:** We have been fulltime residents for more than 30 years. A few years ago we went to great expense, time and effort to permit and replace our existing septic system. As we had gone to this expense just a few years ago, we like many other owners of newer homes look for some grandfathering of newer systems, but this is not contemplated by the EU application. All homeowners are expected to connect within a year ... no exceptions.
4. **Egregious Connection Charges:** We, like many island residents, are retired and on a fixed income. The exorbitant costs of the more than \$12K connection fee PLUS crushing and filling our existing septic tank PLUS the cost of running lines through our private common drive over to our property PLUS the added electrical service PLUS the added generator for EU's sewer solution PLUS moving and replacing displaced landscaping are well beyond our planned expenses for this time of our lives – especially given the recent full replacement of our septic tank system.

- a. The original 12/2020 estimate for connection fees was nearly \$20K and while the current \$12K is somewhat reduced with no logical explanation, the ongoing monthly fees in perpetuity have increased significantly.
 - b. There has been no "pay-over-time" plan proposed suggesting all expenses will come due at one time.
5. **Even More Egregious Monthly Rates:** It appears the estimated monthly cost of EU's sewer service would average more than \$250/month for usage based on 4,000 gallons. This is 3x – 4x the cost of comparable monthly service in surrounding areas.
6. **No centralized oversight:** As there is no official governmental body with oversight and enforcement authority over this immensely expensive project, the likelihood of a failure in full or in part is increased which would leave homeowners stuck paying these costs more than once. The likelihood is significant given:
 - a. EU has never undertaken a wastewater project.
 - b. EU would not be required to take out a performance bond in the event of cost overruns or project failure, leaving island owners left paying even more to complete the project.
 - c. The PSC, Florida DEP, Charlotte County and the Army Corps of Engineers each have oversight over a single, specific area of the project covered by specific regulation or permitting.
7. **Negative impact on island wildlife:** We love the native environment of the barrier islands and work hard to support efforts to protect this special environment. EU has not offered anything showing plans to minimize impact on the native island wildlife from the protected gopher tortoises, indigo snakes, nesting Bald Eagles, etc. As the sewer grinder pump proposed has a limited capacity of 60 gallons (~25-30 flushes), if islanders don't have electrical power nor external fuel for generators during our frequent power interruptions, localized raw sewage issues will devastate wildlife and general quality of life at each property. Further, the risk of issues with raw sewage transiting under the intracoastal waterway independent of any storm related power outages is far greater than anticipated from individual septic tanks with the potential to have a devastating impact on our marine life and shore birds.

For these reasons, we are formally requesting that the Public Service Commission **DENY** Environmental Utilities request under Docket #20200226-SU.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,

Marcia and Gary Wilkins

7 Pointe Way, Don Pedro Island, FL

Email: Bocilla@comcast.net

Lisa Smith

From: Kevin Stevens <palmisland70@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 12:35 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; commissioner.passodomo@psc.state.fl.us;
Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Cc: Kevin Stevens
Subject: Docket # 20200226-SU

Kevin Stevens—-Knight Island property owner.

Vote

NO

on Docket #20200226-SU

I strongly Object to the proposal and ask the PSC to deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

Signed

Kevin Stevens

Sent from my iPhone

Lisa Smith

From: William Gillan <bgillan@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 12:28 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark
Subject: Docket #20200226-SU

Commissioner Clark,

My name is Bill Gillan, and I am a property owner on Don Pedro Island. I am writing to object to the proposal by EU to install a central sewer system on Don Pedro Island, and to formally request that the Public Service Commission deny the Application for Original Certificate of Authorization for this proposed central sewer system.

I am objecting to EU's proposal for several reasons:

1. The project is poorly planned and the finances necessary for a project of this magnitude cause me grave concern. EU has not addressed how the system would be serviced in the event of failure, for instance during a storm or other event. There is no performance bond required and no single point of general oversight and recourse for the project in the event of cost overruns or project failure. This lack of planning could prove to be catastrophic for our island.
2. The cost to each homeowner is unreasonable and burdensome. The current estimated cost of hook-up for each homeowner is over \$13,000 and the average cost per month is over \$178.00 per month. This amount does not include the landscaping and hardscaping around the septic area that would need to be cleared at our expense, and an electric panel for the system pump will have to be installed by a licensed electrician which will also be at our expense. We would also be responsible for replacing equipment when needed which could be often since salt air takes a heavy toll on mechanical and electrical equipment here. These are expenses we were not planning on or made aware of when we purchased our house on Don Pedro Island. This creates an unnecessary financial hardship on me and other homeowners on the island, especially since EU's proposal does not include a pay-over-time option. We would be unfairly forced to take loans to cover the costs for a project that the residents do not want.
3. There is no proven need for a central sewer system to be installed on the island. This unnecessary project would result in the destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species that make our island a unique and beautiful place to live. Additionally, the risk is high for a central sewer leak affecting the Intracoastal waterway.

There are numerous other reasons for EU's proposal to be denied, but the fact is that the risks of going forward with this project far outweigh the benefits. I hope you will consider the impacts on the homeowners of Don Pedro Island who will be greatly affected by this needless and poorly planned project, as well as the detrimental impacts to our unique island environment, and deny EU's application for wastewater service that the residents of Don Pedro do not want.

Thank you,

Bill Gillan

bgillan@comcast.net