

Antonia Hover

From: Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 8:20 AM
To: 'Heather L Robertson'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Docket No. 20200226-SU

Good Morning, Heather Stout.

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

Thank you!

Toni Hover

*Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
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Tallahassee, FL 32399
Phone: (850) 413-6467*

From: Heather L Robertson <webdeziner1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 9:44 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Docket No. 20200226-SU

Dear Commissioners,

We moved to this island in 2014. Through hard work and budgeting our dream became a reality.

I am asking that you deny Environmental Utilities the certification for sewer based upon the following reasons:

1 Since Environmental Utilities does not have a true and accurate representation of actual costs, and no payment plan options I am very concerned about my family's budget.

We will have to have our electric panel upgraded. We will have to purchase a generator since we are a full time family of three and have experienced many many power interruptions out here on the island. A generator will be a must for us and the environment. We are owners and we will be made to burden the cost of a generator because a back-up could be devastating to our home and the environment.

Environmental Utilities owner Jack Boyer told me on record at our Homeowners Association Board of Directors meeting when I asked if he will be perpetually raising rates as our current *private water provider does?* He answered, "He will take every

raise afforded to him. In 10 years with the allowable rate increases we will easily be in the \$300 range. For a family that adheres to a budget to live in an environmental and family oasis these charges will not be tenable for us and many island friends. These are not fair and equitable rates and charges. In fact we haven't even been supplied with a true number so that our family can plan accordingly. Please deny Environmental Utilities on this point.

I would also like to address the need for service.

A need would imply that our septic systems are harming our waterways.

An individual, an organization, a county government or even state agency would have to have tests to show that our island is impacting the waterways. There are none. I have spent the last year studying, calling and emailing all of the agencies that would be involved with making this determination. There simply are no tests documented or posted from our local government or state agencies. Charlotte Harbor National Estuaries Program has very limited posted results for our area and those limited results clearly show that testing does not support this far fetched notion that our septic systems are polluting our local waterways.

We do know the state has a problem but putting the undue burden on individual homeowners while still allowing agriculture, big sugar, golf courses and phosphorous mines to pollute our waterways is a backward way of implementing environmental safeguards. Also I would like to point out that our local government is still actively approving septic systems here on the island. The same septic systems that EU and Jack Boyer claim are impairing our waterways.

Furthermore I would like to point out that Charlotte County has had 690+ wastewater incidents or malfunction from 2013 to date per the State of FL Oculus report. The latest was January of 2022. A massive spill mainland close to our island on Placida Rd. This is the proposed agency to receive our wastewater??

Our local island residents are very active in our pursuit of environmental excellence. We have been LAB testing our island waterways for years. We have tested in July, the height of tourist season and when the waters are the warmest. We have selected this time as the prime environment to identify any problems. Our testing results as far back as 2012 clearly support the evidence based results that island septic tanks are not harming our local waters. Also please note that our island homeowners association regularly promotes batch septic pump-outs to island residents. We connect island residents that are looking to have their septic systems pumped and inspected so they can save on the necessary ferry fees associated with a pump out. We do this so that we can actively promote responsible and environmentally sound septic practices. Please deny Environmental Utilities claim of need for sewer. They clearly haven't shown this to be true.

Lastly I would like to close with some wisdom my parents have passed on to me over the years.

1) *Don't go in to business with someone you don't trust regardless of the promises they make.*

Approving Environmental Utilities is tantamount to saying I have to go into business with Jack Boyer. His financial track-record, past legal issues and disregard for the will of the island will not make a good business partner for me or my family.

2) *Make a budget and stick to that budget.*

As a homeowner I have not been presented with a factual dollar amount to be able to budget and plan for. And of course no pay over time option. How is this fair and equitable?

Thank You for your time,
Heather L Stout

webdeziner1@yahoo.com

Full Time Island Resident at 400 Bocilla Dr.