

Antonia Hover

From: Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 8:33 AM
To: 'laurie gaines'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: RE. Docket #20200226-SU

Good Morning, Laurie Gaines.

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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From: laurie gaines <gaines555@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 1:30 AM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: RE. Docket #20200226-SU

My name is Laurie Gaines and I am a resident at 8814 Grand Avenue, Little Gasparilla Island. My husband and I have concerns about the proposed sewer system application by EU and would like to formally request that the application be denied. We feel that more thought needs to go into the type of system to be proposed. The current proposed system seems to require electricity to work (unlike a high pressure system) and we lose power frequently on the island. It will tear up our yards and landscaping and wreak havoc on our quiet little island. And apparently the system will still need pumping every five years or so! (Due to our boat-only access, currently pumping costs about \$1500....and you can be on a waiting list for up to 6 months to get septic systems pumped. THAT should be more of a cause for concern by the County and I wish they would address that issue rather than just create a mandate that we need to install a system that is going to require even more frequent service.)

Our main concern stems from several aspects of the proposal:

1. the damage that will be caused to the ambiance of our island by the implementation of infrastructure at each and every home. Even more concerning is the potential for a major leak or spill when removing sewage from the island. The potential for a major leak, spilling thousands of gallons of raw sewage into Placida Bay, seems to be much more likely than the impact of a few leaking septic systems. (I have lived on the island for over 35 years and can count on one had the time I have actually witnessed a septic tank overflow or leak.) Most are well maintained by residents and many are brand new systems installed within the last 5-6 years.

2. I also think it is unfair to ask homeowners to foot the bill for such a system without any option for financing. If the county feels it is necessary, Charlotte County should provide the service and pay for it with increased taxes over time....to hit each homeowner on the island with an enormous bill for a system they don't

want or need is simply unfair. Many older residents may lose their homes. In addition, we are already paying EU an unusually high rate for our water...now we are going to be charged another unfairly high rate for sewer service we neither need nor want.

3. Our island lifestyle is unique and rare. We do not want the type of infrastructure that will encourage high-rises and more condo developments to come in and change our way of life forever. We like the island just the way it is.

4. The company proposing the system has not provided detailed costs and has not provided any sort of bid for a system. To just award a contract to an unproven contractor who "thinks" he can provide wastewater treatment seems reckless. I would feel more confident with a firm that has done something like this in the past rather than an unknown entity who cannot even provide financial details.

All in all, it seems that this request for a permit is premature, there is much more information that needs to be provided, both about how the system is going to be maintained, what will be done in the event of a major storm, how are major sewage spills going to be prevented, what is the company's experience in this area and what are the actual costs going to be?

Thank you in advance for considering my request.

Laurie Gaines
gaines555@earthlink.net