

Nickalus Holmes

From: Nickalus Holmes on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 4:13 PM
To: 'Terrie Weibley'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU

Good Afternoon Terrie Weibley

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.

Thank you

Nick Holmes
Commission Deputy Clerk II
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
850-413-6770

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From: Terrie Weibley <tweibley1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 4:09 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Cc: Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith <Commissioner.Passidomo.Smith@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Chairman La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; +Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us
Subject: DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioner,

Little Gasparilla Island is in upheaval after homeowners read the findings of the PSC Staff re: Docket 20240032-SU. We feel as though we spoke at an entirely different hearing, sat through a different set of compelling statements and weighed the testimony of totally different experts!

Of particular interest is our island's suitability for sewer or more importantly, lack thereof. Those opposed to Environmental Utilities (the overwhelming majority), have real world experience with fragile ground and underground equipment and particularly electrically-dependent equipment and the flooding and storm surges that regularly breach our island. Power outages alone are common here, rendering the system useless for extended periods. This sewer system is doomed from the start.

Our island environment as well as our homes and families will pay a devastating price if you as Commissioners approve this known-to-fail proposal for an individual grinder-based sewage system. We are astonished that any person with common sense could approve such a scheme. Several Islanders specifically testified that their septic tanks were the ONLY thing left intact and working after the overwhelming recent hurricanes. Numerous others could have declared the same, but you didn't want repetition. Are we to be penalized for following that guideline? The force of an ocean determined to have its way can not be answered by fragile equipment, much less electronics. It will all be ruined, washed out to sea and the island will be inundated with sewage! Then there really will be dangerous health hazards. It is almost as if this scheme was designed to chase us away. Hmmm...

The staff concluded that the Charlotte County Commission is behind this project. Yet it was exposed at the hearing that EU's attorney (who previously denied recalling this), had drafted the letter the Commissioners signed. It is especially telling that not a single invited County Commissioner felt that the Environmental Utilities proposal hearing for our island was a meeting with state commissioners at which they wanted to be seen. Instead, their Utilities Director was present to rubber stamp the proposal, about which he apparently knew little. The PSC Administrative Staff found it inconsequential that the very few requests for sewer service came primarily from family members of the man who would most benefit from the contract. As a government entity, it is nothing short of amazing that the PSC would find this inconsequential. "The Commission has never considered the relationship of a requester for service to the proposer..." This is a grievous error. Relationships matter. It is hard to think of an area of legal precedent where they are immaterial. It is past time for the Commission to consider what Islanders are only too aware of. This hapless sewer proposal is a solution to funding a man's future in search of a problem that does not exist. The overwhelming majority of Islanders are crystal clear that there is no need for EU's proposal and that septic tanks alone reliably work on LGI without polluting surrounding waters.

Please Commissioners, just say no. Stop this disaster before it starts. Your commitment is stated in print as providing services that are "safe, reasonable and reliable." Environmental Utilities' proposal will fail all 3 tests. Let our waters remain pristine. Keep endless heavy equipment from trampling and forever erasing indigenous archeological sites and burial grounds known to locals, as well as ruining shelter for a panoply of animals that share our abundant endangered gopher tortoise homes. Don't allow one man's scheme to burden the many for something unneeded, unwanted, destined to fail and certain to damage a fragile last vestige of Old Florida. It is never easy to do the right thing. We still trust that you will do it anyway. We believed that those of you who sat for the hearings displayed sincerity and common sense in your time with us. Thank you for listening yet again. You are our only hope to literally save our island.

Respectfully yours,

Terrie Weibley
9782 Little Gasparilla Island