

Antonia Hover

From: Betty Leland
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 7:26 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket #20240032
Attachments: Docket # 20240032. Please DENY this proposal; EU Application for Sewer Certificate for barrier islands; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Docket #20240032; #20240032-SU Docket Denial

Good Morning:

Please place this email in Docket #20240032.

Thanks.

Betty A. Leland, Executive Assistant to
Commissioner Art Graham
Florida Public Service Commission
bleland@psc.state.fl.us
(850) 413-6024

Antonia Hover

From: Fred Boykin <fboykin@bicyclesouth.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2025 9:45 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Records Clerk
Subject: Docket # 20240032. Please DENY this proposal

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To the Public Service Commission:

I own unit J-6 at Hideaway Bay Beach Club (HBBC) on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI) and have owned it since 1998. At our monthly board meeting zoom call held on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, owners on the call (including me) were apprised of the current status of Environmental Utilities (EU) attempts to install a waste water pipe to LGI. It was quite a surprise to find out that the latest plan shows the main pipe comes ashore at HBBC's barge landing, runs under our road on the south edge of our property and through our drainfield.

All these changes with NO NOTICE to anyone at HBBC. This impacts our ability to bring a pump-out truck ashore to service our treatment plant, ruins the treatment plant itself, denies owners who use the road to access their units. There is also a major electrical transmission line installed under that same road not that long ago by Florida Power & Light. In addition, HBBC was excluded from the project by EU in May of 2024 (#03001-2024) and suddenly added to their proposal with no notice to HBBC owners, our board or our attorney. HBBC has an operating treatment plant permitted by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). HBBC and Placida Beach condos that use our plant do not need EU's proposal.

I ask the Public Service Commission to deny this plan.

Fred Boykin
Hideaway Bay Beach Club J-6
404-668-4274

Fred Boykin
404-668-4274 c

Antonia Hover

From: Hankin Family <DHankin@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2025 9:02 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham
Cc: Hankin Family
Subject: EU Application for Sewer Certificate for barrier islands

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you today to ask you to please deny the application for sewer certificate requested by Environmental Utilities (EU). My family and I are owners of Unit I-8 at Hideaway Bay Beach Club on Little Gasparilla Island. We have been coming to this paradise since 1974 and have witnessed a lot of changes over the years, almost none of them good. I believe the changes that would occur with the proposed sewer system would fall into that category.

There are so many questions and comments, but I will try to be on point with this:

- Why is a sewer system even being considered?
- Is this grinder pump low pressure system even the right style of system?
- All owners on the Islands outside of the condominiums (as we already have a permitted system) do not want a sewer system
- Owners say they do not need a sewer system
- Owners say it will be too expensive (forcing many folks to sell of their island homes that have been the family for years)
- The environmental impact could be devastating and is not worth the risk (what can go wrong will go wrong).

This whole application seems to be being jammed down our throats. And to make matters worse is that the applicant has made changes to the original plan submitted to you without notifying our Hideaway Bay Beach Club Association (which they want to place a pump station on our property). We have been denied our due process by not being given proper notification. This EU outfit currently supplies us the most expensive water in the state of Florida for a public utility. I can only assume that a sewer system would also be the most expensive.

For these reasons, I ask you to deny the application for sewer certificate to EU.

Thank you for your time and consideration in the matter.

Dave Hankin
352-816-5645

Antonia Hover

From: lindspauls@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2025 8:04 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: RE: Docket #20240032-SU

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Hello,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Environmental Utilities Sewer application currently under review. My husband Matt and I bought property on Don Pedro Island in 2021. We were excited to focus on a dream that highlights natural Florida beauty, tranquility, and independence.

After thoroughly reviewing the application, the hearings, and the information provided, I believe this request for service is both unnecessary and unjustified and will put our dream at risk. It is also clear that we are not alone in this feeling; there is a lack of support for the proposal, with many local residents from the barrier islands, mainland Charlotte County, and others all voicing opposition.

Among my concerns the key are:

- **Inexperienced Private Company:** I do not believe a private utility company, especially one with no experience in wastewater services, should be entrusted with managing such a critical function. I am worried about the potential for unpredictable and uncontrollable increases in monthly service fees they may implement.
- **Underbid Cost Estimates:** The cost estimates provided for the sewage hookup appear to be significantly understated, which raises doubts about their planning, budgeting, and project management capabilities. My concern as an owner is the inevitable overages will impact my own household budget in an unmanageable way.
- **Uncertain Environmental Impacts:** The application lacks sufficient evidence of any adverse effects on the surrounding waterways or natural habitats. After witnessing the minimal damage to septic systems on Little Gasparilla, Don Pedro, and Knight Island following Hurricanes Ian, Helene, and Milton, I can attest that septic systems continued to operate as intended the very next day. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for Boca Grande's sewage facility and other surrounding systems, which failed due to power outages. I do not see sufficient reassurance that this will be beneficial to our local ecosystem.

These concerns, among others, are why I am firmly opposed to this application and similar future proposals. I respectfully urge you to oppose the project as well.

I greatly appreciate the vital role that our County Commissioners and public servants play in shaping our community's future. I sincerely hope that you will honor the public's wishes and reject the Environmental Utilities sewer application.

Thank you for your consideration,
Lindsey O'Brien

Antonia Hover

From: Jessica Mack <jsmack6091@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2025 6:48 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Graham
Subject: Docket #20240032

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Dear Commissioners,

My name is Jessica Mack. I am an owner on LGI at 9400 Little Gasparilla Island Unit G9 which is part of the Hideaway Bay Beach Club condos. (HBBC) and at 9480 Alborado Road. I am writing this letter to ask you to **deny** the application by Environmental Utilities for a certificate to install sewers on our island.

EU made the change to the location of the waste water transmission line from Don Pedro State Park to the HBBC property. Even though we were excluded from the scope of this application on May 13, 2024 (Doc # 03001-2024) by EU's attorney, this change directly affects every one of the owners at HBBC. We were not notified of this substantial change to the application. This is a direct violation of one of the tenets by which the PSC should base their decision - proper notification of all involved parties. This change to the application without notification denies the owners at HBBC of our due process to be able to fight this change.

The letter from the HBBC lawyer, Nick Porter dated February 28, 2025 (Doc #01210-2025) also states HBBC's position in this matter. I was extremely disappointed the PSC staff did not take into account this oversight in notification in their recommendation.

132 Families are being denied their due process because of the change made by EU without notification.

If EU plans to use the model as indicated in the 2017 CC SMP, the pump house for the sewer will be built on the HBBC Septic Plant drain field. Building anything on our drain field will result in the community being shut down completely while the construction is underway. It will also force us to hook up to the EU sewer despite being excluded from the scope of this project. How can this be done without any kind of notification? Again, 132 families are being denied our due process.

Because we were excluded from the scope of this application, there have been no estimates of the hook up costs for the condos. If this scenario plays out, HBBC would have to be the first people forced to hook up to the sewer system. We wouldn't have any recourse to this questionable action by EU, we wouldn't have any indication of the costs associated with this action, we wouldn't be able to use our homes resulting in additional living expenses until the initial sewer construction was completed and we would have to assume the costs of decommissioning our septic plant. Is this fair & reasonable for the 132 families that are excluded from the scope of this application.

132 families that are directly affected have not been notified. 132 families currently using a DEP permitted septic plant do not need a sewer line brought to our property. 132 families have no idea what the financial burden will be if this transmission line is brought to our property.

Please do the right thing and deny this application.

Jessica Mack

HBBC Unit G9

Antonia Hover

From: Kathy Stokes <kitkatstokes@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2025 6:09 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Records Clerk
Subject: #20240032-SU Docket Denial

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Sent from my iPhone

Dear Commissioners,

It was shocking to read that your PSC Staff is recommending that you issue a wastewater certificate to Environmental Utilities, a private, for profit, inexperienced LLC! I have read every item that has been listed on your site, and I'm an "Interested" person. I've written letters to you during these TWO applications asking that you deny, I attended both days of hearings and spoke of my own situation and experience with EU.

Mr. Boyer has quite a reputation on our bridgeless barrier island. He stole water from the Don Pedro State Park in the middle of the island for his own water company and was arrested. In addition he illegally installed water to homes on LGI without permits, and he's not a plumber, (told me and 6 others he had installed hundreds,) used the wrong pipes and equipment which had to be replaced for which he was fined publicly at a Charlotte County Commission meeting. He has run his water company's pipes wherever he pleased and the condition of his meters even before the hurricanes was disturbing. Knowing the previous, it is very surprising and disappointing that the Charlotte County Commission approved a resolution that Mr. Boyer's attorney wrote and submitted to the County Atty. supporting his obtaining this certificate. This evidence was presented at the hearing. Then it was passed as a consent agenda with no discussion! And remember the Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan does not allow sewer in "Rural Service" areas of which we are. Does this seem ethical? Not one County Commissioner appeared at your hearings.

Speaking of ethics, in my research, I saw a name in the PSC info for ethics so I called. When I questioned if ethics of the applicants for certificates was looked at, I was told, Oh no, that is for the ethics of the PSC employees. Too bad not for applicants too.

At the hearings all three of the PSC Commissioners were so attentive and receptive to all of us who spoke, to our attorneys, and expert witnesses. There were hundreds of residents in attendance, (standing room only) and of those who spoke all were against the issuing of a certificate except for very few, which included his daughter, son in law, and wife. In the letter writing his 2 daughters who are realtors, 2 son in laws who are in construction, his employees, and his developer friend were involved.

Commissioners, I surely am hoping you are reading all the letters as it is going to be devastating to so many if you approve this certificate. There is no proven need environmentally, we are such a fragile place with lots of fragile animal habitats, the cost is astronomical, and the planned equipment is outdated and no longer used by Charlotte County.

Our expert witnesses and so many homeowners who spoke have expertise in the area of sewer and what will happen if allowed on our very fragile barrier island. Please take all of that into consideration. Also of concern to me is why should the homeowners have to finance Everything? We will be paying for property, trucks, boat, buildings and equipment! It is a start up company bringing nothing to the deal!

I will be personally affected as I am widowed and retired, a former teacher and school administrator, and I do not have \$40,000 to install this equipment, to maintain it with its needed generator, and the expected \$200 monthly fees. I will probably have to put my beloved home up for sale which my husband and I built 26 years ago. There are many who are in the same situation.

I am asking once again that you deny this certificate. Please put yourself into our shoes, 99% of our residents are asking this.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Stokes
8892 Gulf St.
Placida, Fl 33946
813-245-9151