

Nickalus Holmes

From: Nickalus Holmes on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 2:43 PM
To: 'Duffy Smith'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Deny EU Application Docket #20240032-SU

Good Afternoon Ms. Smith

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: Duffy Smith <mcduff8894@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 2:40 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; 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>; Office of Commissioner Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Deny EU Application Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioners,

PLEASE DENY ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITY'S APPLICATION

My husband and I are full-time residents on the sparsely populated, salty piece of land known as Little Gasparilla Island. We built here over 20 years ago, when there were about 40 full-time residents and a small transient population. Today, there are approximately 120 full-time residents. In the past two decades, there has been very little growth. The island's total capacity is only about 450 possible Equivalent Residential Connections (ERCs), and that number will not change unless an unnecessary central sewer system is imposed upon our community. Nearly 70% of stakeholders oppose this application.

I have carefully reviewed the Environmental Utility's (EU) application, all the briefs, testimony, and attended two days of hearings, listening to attorneys and expert witnesses. There was no demonstrable need for this

service. If a few family members and developers are enough to justify the imposition of a central sewer system, this would be an absurd decision.

Please, DO NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE as the Charlotte County Commissioners, who supported EU's application without due diligence. Charlotte County did not conduct any impact studies, neglected the needs and rights of homeowners, and failed to assess the water quality of Little Gasparilla Island's surrounding waters. The "resolution of support" was composed by EU's attorney and merely rubber-stamped by the commissioners, as requested by a private, for-profit individual. This is a clear dereliction of duty to the citizens they are supposed to serve and protect, leaving 800 residents to fend for themselves.

Commissioners Clark, Graham, and Passidomo-Smith, you have seen more evidence on this case than our local commissioners, who were absent during the hearings. They have not taken the time to hear, see, or witness the testimony of their constituents. This is not the first time they have failed to represent us adequately.

Our island is surrounded by a state-designated Outstanding Florida Water body. We want to protect, preserve, and improve it. A central sewer system is not the solution. We cannot risk sewer pipes beneath our sandy paths and through our bay and intracoastal waterway. The possibility of untreated wastewater spilling into our waters and onto our property is unacceptable.

While some septic systems on the island may need repair or replacement, this does not justify a blanket, astronomically costly mandate for the entire community. Viable solutions, such as Enhanced Nutrient Onsite Sewage Treatment Disposal Systems (ENR-OSTDS), are being considered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection possibly as better alternatives than septic to sewer conversions for coastal communities.

PLEASE GIVE US A CHANCE

Give us a chance to preserve our homes. Give us a chance to protect our fragile environment. Give us a chance to explore better systems and funding where needed. Give us a chance to maintain our peaceful community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Cheryl Smith
8894 Gulf Street
Little Gasparilla Island