

Nickalus Holmes

From: Nickalus Holmes on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 12:57 PM
To: 'Dale Novak'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

Good Afternoon Dale and Julie Novak

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20240032-SU, 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: Dale Novak <dnovak@novakcreative.net>
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 11:26 AM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: RE: Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Commissioners:

I implore you to deny this request by Environmental Utilities (EU).

Please put your self in our shoes.

The VAST amount of homeowners on these islands have perfectly functioning septic systems. The DON'T require electricity to operate. Many of these septic systems are practically new (and at a great cost to each homeowner). They are tested and approved by Charlotte County — and comply with all the current rules and regulations.

Please imagine if you can another storm like Helen or Milton. We as Islanders certainly can. The island is under water again. Only this time, we have potentially thousands of ELECTRIC POWERED pumps, grinders and lift stations all over the island. Every one of them have been now destroyed by seawater. They won't power on — or they potentially become fire hazards when the power to the island is restored. Shorting out or simply freezing up from sandy, dirty, turbulent seawater infiltrating each pump, grinder and lift station.

Now what happens?

It is highly logical that the EU will not be able to restore these systems in a timely manner. They are too small, inexperienced and lack any practical knowledge of dealing with a complete shut-down of the sewer system. This means we won't be able to return to our homes for potentially for many months — or possibly over a year.

Where do we go? Our home on the island is our residence — not a seasonal property. After both Helene and Milton we were back in our home in under two weeks. With Helene, it was a matter of days. FPL had power restored in both instances fairly quick. Our septic system was 100% operational. We even had it inspected after Milton and it required NO repairs or service. Keep in mind, even when the power was off, our septic system still functioned.

This won't be the case with the EU's proposed system. The entire sewer system will be shut down. All the electric motors will be destroyed and they won't be fixable. They will require replacement.

How long will this take? How much will it cost? WHO will pay for? I'm assuming that the EU will simply bill every homeowner all over again for replacing the motors and pumps at each home.

The people who live on these barrier islands are extremely resilient. We don't shy away from hard work or fixing our properties. But we DON'T own a money printing press. We can not sustain paying the EU for every aspect of their business — and that is precisely what the EU is demanding each homeowner does — pays them for every expense. It's just not feasible for this to be a successful plan. It will crush us financially and emotionally.

And I also ask you — what happens to a homeowner when they can't pay for all of this? Get a loan? That's not a plan. If you can't afford it, getting a loan is akin to just plugging a few holes in a sinking ship — it just takes a bit longer to sink. I assume many people will be FORCED to sell their homes and likely at a huge loss. It just seems there should be no way a "private for profit" company and our local and state government should be able to force us from our homes. They get rich, we get poor.

Please let us breathe after dealing with two horrific back-to-back storms. I can't imagine how devastating this will be to our islands, and the people who live here, if it gets approved.

Sincerely,

Dale & Julie Novak
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