

**Antonia Hover**

---

**From:** Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2025 1:08 PM  
**To:** 'Matthew O'Brien'  
**Cc:** Consumer Contact  
**Subject:** RE: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

Good Afternoon, Matthew O'Brien.

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!

*Toni Hover*  
Commission Deputy Clerk I  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
Phone: (850) 413-6467

*PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your email message may be subject to public disclosure.*

**From:** Matthew O'Brien <mrobrien@bu.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2025 12:55 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@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 Commissioner Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to express my COMPLETE OPPOSITION to the Environmental Utilities Sewer application currently under consideration. My wife, Lindsey, and I were fortunate enough to purchase a lot on Don Pedro Island at 301 Bocilla Dr in 2021 with the vision of living a life of freedom, independence, and enjoying the natural beauty of Florida. We were excited to embrace a lifestyle that includes great neighbors, a peaceful atmosphere, and independence. Prior to this, we purchased our first home together in 2016 at the age of 25 in Bradenton, FL. The house still has its original septic tank from the 1970s, which we have carefully maintained and serviced over the past nine years without incident. It remains in perfect working order.

In contrast, Manatee County has faced numerous issues with the release of sewage into the Manatee River from its wastewater plant, and we have witnessed the negative impact on the surrounding environment. Yet, our septic system has continued to function effectively, something both Manatee and Charlotte Counties cannot say about their wastewater management systems.

After carefully reviewing the details of the application, the hearings, and the information provided by EU, it is clear to me that this is an unnecessary and unjustified request for service. Additionally, it is evident that there is little to no public support for this application, with many local neighbors on the barrier islands, mainland Charlotte County residents, and others who are informed about the issue all opposing it. My specific concerns are as follows:

- **Private Utility Company:** I do not believe a private utility company, especially EU with no experience in this field, should be responsible for managing wastewater services. It would be like going to a grocery store and asking a checkout clerk for dental surgery—it simply doesn't make sense. I am also concerned about the potential for unpredictable and uncontrollable cost increases in monthly service fees.
- **Low-Pressure System:** I strongly oppose the use of a low-pressure system, which Charlotte County has already deemed problematic and has ceased installing in the county.
- **Understated Cost Estimates:** The cost estimates provided by EU for the sewage hookup seem grossly understated, raising concerns about their planning, budgeting, and project management capabilities. Based on costs in other areas of Florida, I believe the proposed price is simply not feasible.
- **Environmental Impact:** The application does not provide sufficient evidence of any negative impact on the surrounding waterways or natural habitats, despite the existence of working and functional septic tanks. In fact, after Hurricanes Ian, Helene, and Milton, I saw firsthand the minimal damage to septic systems on Little Gasparilla, Don Pedro, and Knight Island. Not a single septic system was completely destroyed, and they continued to function as designed the very next day. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for Boca Grande's sewage facility or other surrounding facilities, which experienced failures due to power loss.

These are just a few of the reasons I am strongly opposed to this application and any future proposals like it. The public, as evidenced by the lack of support for this application, shares these concerns. I respectfully ask that you oppose this project as well.

I have great respect for the role that our County Commissioners and public servants play in shaping the future of our community, and I sincerely hope that you will respect the public's wishes and reject the Environmental Utilities sewer application.

Best regards,  
Matthew O'Brien