From:	Office of Commissioner Fay
Sent:	Friday, March 28, 2025 2:52 PM
То:	Commissioner Correspondence
Subject:	Docket No. 20240032-SU
Attachments:	DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU; DENY EU APPLICATION - RE.
	Docket #20240032-SU; DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket
	#20240032-SU; RE. Docket #20240032-SU; #20240032-SU Docket Denial; RE. Docket #
	20240032-SU

Please place the attached emails in Docket No. 20240032

Thanks

From:	Korrie Stevenson <stevensonkorrie@gmail.com></stevensonkorrie@gmail.com>
Sent:	Friday, March 28, 2025 2:34 PM
То:	Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Fav
Subject:	DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Commissioners of the Public Service Commission:

I am a property owner at 9700 Little Gasparilla Island which is a property within the service area of the proposed wastewater service, Docket #20240032-SU

I formally object and request that PSC <u>deny</u> Environment Utilities (EU) application for wastewater service.

The homes, on average, do not have heavy usage. Half of them are empty at any given time and all very easily managed with a properly maintained septic. A sewer system is a terrible 'solution' to a misdiagnosed problem.

Additionally, there is no plausible reason to understand how this is even permitted to be bought to the table yet again after it was previously denied for the incredible amount of reasons from outrageous costs initially and ongoing to environmental hazards to the extreme maintenance and electricity it must have. It is simply and truly reprehensible.

This is about ONE family that wants to make a massive amount of income off of our land and our residents. It is that simple. The amount of financial and area devastation for so many with their homes on the island water 3 major hurricanes is reason alone to point out the obvious.

In good conscience, there is no possible way for this to be approved by the PSC and is yet again a waste of everyone's time and resources.

Thank you,

Korrie Stevenson 9700 Little Gasparilla Island, Placida FL 33946 stevensonkorrie@gmail.com

From:	stuart mendel <shmendel@usa.net></shmendel@usa.net>
Sent:	Friday, March 28, 2025 2:20 PM
То:	Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject:	DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear PSC Commissioners-

Please reject the Environmental Utilities application for sewer on Little Gasparilla Island. The proposed sewer is an environmental, financial, corporation and legal disaster in every way:

-environmental disaster because it is at high risk of failing / overflowing and dumping sewage into our precious waterways. One electrical failure (which happens frequently on LGI) shuts off sewer service for everyone = this makes no sense!

-financial disaster because the company is private and therefore owners cannot apply for financial assistance through available programs. the real cost to each homeowner will be in the \$50,000 range, which is -unaffordable to many, especially after we have been slammed with costs related to Hurricanes Ian, Helene and Milton -corporation disaster because the company has NO experience in providing sewer service -legal disaster because the EU demand for right of way onto each property will be the subject of many legal challenges. The Iaw does not give them the right they need in order to buildi this sewer system.

Everyone wants to protect our waterways and upgrade our usage programs, but it needs to be done right, not rushed. EU, LLC is not qualified, and its being private hurts owners financially.

We need a qualified, experienced company to investigate and address the sewer need on LGI, one that can apply for grants to help defray our costs. This can be done, but NOT with Environmental Utilities LLC

I attended the Hearings and the sentiment was overwhelmingly against the EU plan based on sound engineering / environmental / legal etc reasoning, so I was shocked that the recommendation was in favor.

PLEASE help preserve one of the very last holdouts of the beautiful Old Florida way of life, which is a joy not only to owners, but to the many visitors who sing its praises. The EU plan is a gateway to further development on LGI, which will destroy the way of life here, the very thing that attracts tourists to our beautful island.

PLEASE VOTE NO

Thank you Stuart Mendel 8942 Gulf Street Placida, FL 33946 shmendel@usa.net

From:	Iterating <iterating@pm.me></iterating@pm.me>
Sent:	Friday, March 28, 2025 2:15 PM
То:	Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner
	Fay
Subject:	DENY EU APPLICATION - RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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PLEASE VOTE NO

Thank you Jennie Freiman 8942 Gulf Street Placida, FL 33946 iterating@pm.me

From:	lindspauls@gmail.com
Sent:	Thursday, March 27, 2025 8:04 PM
То:	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

From:	Jessica Mack <jsmack6091@gmail.com></jsmack6091@gmail.com>
Sent:	Thursday, March 27, 2025 7:14 PM
То:	Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject:	RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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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 Little Gasparilla Island.

If passed, this would affect both of my properties. I'm asking you personally to come visit the island and see what a special place this is. It is unlike any other place you can imagine. I've grown up here, and my children have turned into adults now. This is the only place that we prefer to come to in order to get away from the hustle and bustle of our busy world. Here we have quiet, stars, a place to walk on the beach and not trip over others. We respect other islanders and treat each other like family. It is the only safe place that my husband and I feel comfortable bringing our family to. Other places in the world are so crime ridden.

Please do the right thing and deny this application.

Jessica Mack

9480 Alborado Road and HBBC G9 Little Gasparilla Island

From:	Kathy Stokes <kitkatstokes@hotmail.com></kitkatstokes@hotmail.com>
Sent:	Thursday, March 27, 2025 6:09 PM
То:	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

From:	Matthew O'Brien <mrobrien@bu.edu></mrobrien@bu.edu>
Sent:	Thursday, March 27, 2025 12:55 PM
То:	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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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