

Brian Schultz

From: Brian Schultz on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 7:14 AM
To: 'Jennifer Jarvis'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: DENY EU APPLICATION - RE: Docket #20240032-SU

Good morning,

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.

Sincerely,

Brian Schultz

Commission Deputy Clerk II
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850.413.6770

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From: Jennifer Jarvis <jarvis@mrinc.net>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 5:02 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 - RE: Docket #20240032-SU

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Good Afternoon,

I am writing to ask you to please deny the approval of this application presented by EU for a sewer system. There are a few reasons. I would like to share.

1. Need – Is there really a need? I have been on the island for over 50 years. In that time, I have never seen raw sewage leaking from any property on the island. I do not agree that we are having spillage issues as claimed. Water samples have not been tested from closer to the island than Lemon Bay. Show me that there is a need, and I may change my opinion. Most of the residents do not live full time on the island. Most are weekend residents, which cuts the usage down to about 80 days a year the houses are being used. That is less than 1/3 of the year.

2. Cost – The cost involved is a concern as we would not be allowed to finance over time like impact fees are spread over time. Also, the cost for this system is outrageous. I have a newer septic as it has been replaced, is pumped, and certified every 5 years by Charlotte County's requirements. This is a large amount of money that not all residents have.
3. Charlotte County – for MANY years, the county has overlooked Little Gasparilla Island, and I feel as though now that they are realizing the money they can benefit from us they are trying to get as much as possible. We pay extremely high taxes and do not get much in return.
4. Established business – EU is not even a working water treatment or sewer company. Why would you trust a brand-new company that has no track record to something as important as sewer? We have already experienced Mr. Boyer with the water company. We pay the highest for water in the entire state of Florida. Once again, we use the house about 1/3 of the year but are required to pay their minimum just to have the water line. Here we are looking at the same high rates for monthly service.
5. Electricity – What is going to happen when the electricity goes out? Currently, we all have septic systems. When the power goes out, we keep going. With the new system, how will it keep functioning? Are we responsible for a generator to be able to keep flushing? We know how long it takes for FPL to respond to a power outage. That would mean that much longer that we would be not able to reside at the island until electricity is restored.
6. Easements – The island was not set up for commercializing. We do not have roads as you do on the mainland. How can you just take people's property so you can run all these new sewer lines? Also, the equipment and vehicles to install the lines, we are not equipped to handle the oversized vehicles.
7. Breakage – What if there is a line that breaks? How many gallons of raw sewage will be spilled into the pathways or waterways? Is there a mandatory response time? Will someone be located on the island 24hrs a day to respond to emergencies?
8. Mandatory – How are you able to make this a mandatory hook up when almost the entire island is in opposition? Are you not willing to listen to the people? We are the ones paying the taxes not being heard. Our current system works perfectly, why would I want to connect when I do not have a problem. The residents have long embraced a degree of independence due to our location; we have been self-reliant on what we must work with. Why not make this an option to opt out, especially if we can demonstrate that our system meets the requirements.
9. Financial Gain – I do believe in free enterprise, but Mr. Boyer is only out for his personal gain and NOT the best interest of the residents. If he was, he would be willing to listen.
10. Island/Mainland – There are many residents on the mainland who have septic systems, and the county is not making it mandatory for them to hook up to a sewer system. Why pick on island residents when you do not even make the mainland hook up to a county sewer system.

I believe that if Charlotte County feels as though there is an issue, then maybe look at visiting the island periodically to inspect the conditions of the island and the current sewer systems. This way they could address the issues on a regular basis and know when something isn't right. There are other solutions, this just needs to be discussed. I understand the county's interest in wanting reliable sewer systems for all, but a one-size-fits-all approach may not be the best suited for Little Gasparilla Island. Perhaps a compromise could be considered.

In conclusion, would you trust a new company to handle something as important as this? Would you like to be imposed on a mandatory \$50K hook up fee, then a \$200 charge per month for pumping gray water, and the electricity to run the pump?

I believe you all have a heart and know right from wrong. This is just wrong to approve something that is not warranted.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rick & Jennifer Jarvis
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Jennifer Jarvis

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