

Brian Schultz

From: Brian Schultz on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 7:15 AM
To: 'Stephanie Ralston'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: EU Waste Water Concern on LGI

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: Stephanie Ralston <d8piratesandmermaids@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 29, 2025 1:42 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: EU Waste Water Concern on LGI

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My name is Stephanie Ralston, and my husband and I own a condo at Hideaway Bay Beach Club (HBBC) on Little Gasparilla Island.

I am writing to urge you to **DENY** Environmental Utilities' (EU) application for a certificate to install sewers on our island. EU made substantial changes to the location of the wastewater transmission line to include HBBC property **without notifying** the HBBC Board of Directors or its legal counsel. Initially, HBBC was excluded from the scope of work in EU's May 13, 2024, application (Doc #03001-2024), as confirmed by EU's attorney. However, HBBC was never informed of the subsequent modifications to include our property, thereby denying the 132 HBBC owners their right to due process. This **failure to provide proper notification** directly violates one of the key tenets upon which the PSC should base its decision.

A letter from HBBC’s attorney, Nick Porter, dated February 28, 2025 (Doc #01210-2025), further outlines HBBC’s formal opposition to this proposal. I am extremely disappointed that the PSC staff did not take this **significant oversight** into account in their recommendation.

If EU follows the model outlined in the 2017 CC SMP, the proposed sewer pump house would be constructed on HBBC’s septic plant drain field. **This would force a complete shutdown of our community during construction** and ultimately require us to connect to EU’s sewer system—despite HBBC being **explicitly excluded** from the original project scope. Furthermore, no cost estimates have been provided to HBBC or its owners regarding this proposal, including the expenses associated with decommissioning the **DEP-permitted septic plant** that currently services both condo associations on the island.

EU has also failed to address the **financial burden** and **timeline impacts** this would impose on the 132 HBBC homeowners. The displacement and hardships caused by construction and decommissioning would be **substantial**. Our island and community—like many areas along the Gulf Coast—are still recovering from recent hurricanes. Any additional **financial and environmental strain** could have devastating consequences for the families of Little Gasparilla Island.

Additionally, the proposed sewer system is **not viable** given our island’s unique environmental challenges. It is my understanding that the system will **not function properly during power outages** or the **regular flooding** that occurs on our barrier island. Since HBBC was not included in the original scope of work, we have not been given adequate time to review the proposal or assess whether the system is sound for our community and the surrounding environment.

There is **no justification** for allowing EU to proceed with this project. They have violated our **rights as homeowners** by attempting to install a public utility on our property **without proper notification, cost assessments, or adequate environmental studies**.

For these reasons, **I strongly urge the PSC to deny this application.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Stephanie Ralston and John Beal

Homeowners, D8 HBBC

(270)350-0504