

Nickalus Holmes

From: Nickalus Holmes on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 4:19 PM
To: 'Palm Island Estates'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: URGENT! RE. Docket #20240032-SU

Good Afternoon Ms. Schaffer

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

Nick Holmes
Commission Deputy Clerk II
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
850-413-6770

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: Palm Island Estates <pie@palmislandestates.org>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 4:16 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>
Subject: URGENT! RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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

To the Commissioners of the Public Service Commission:

Tomorrow is a monumental day in the lives of Island residents. The decision you render regarding Environmental Utilities' application will impact the property owners within the prospective service area for many years to come.

In their recommendation, staff took the position that the application should be approved based on only the most limited factors to be considered. In other words, the application was complete and not deficient.

Staff also took the narrowest interpretation of what constitutes "need for service". They stuck to the 4 specific items in the application and dismissed any other considerations, such as environmental need for service, securing of easements and more.

As Commissioners of the PSC, we understand that you have the autonomy to consider more than the fulfillment of a checklist. There were only two items that differed from the previous docket where you denied certification:

- The inclusion of request for service with the application submission instead of later in the process.
- The submission of the Charlotte County supporting resolution with the application instead of a letter of support from Charlotte County that was submitted late in the process in 2022.

Nothing else has significantly changed since the last application.

We ask you to consider the following when making your decision regarding need for service/public interest. All can be verified in evidence and testimony:

- Environmental need is a part of the need for service. No testing has been done to prove water pollution, nor is there proof of a public health and safety issue.
- The Charlotte County resolution is not proof of a "need" for service, but rather it is a "want" for service as the Comprehensive Plan prohibits them from installing central sewer.
- EU's attorney wrote the Charlotte County resolution, not the Charlotte County attorney. That's why it states that there's no conflict with the Comprehensive Plan, when even the PSC staff agrees that there is.
- Even Charlotte County believes that a low-pressure system requires too much maintenance. They no longer use the system, only doing new installations where the system already exists.
- There is no mandate for central sewer, and Charlotte County continues to issue permits for septic system installations.
- The major discrepancies in the cost estimates among the various expert witnesses leaves the potential for a return to the PSC for a rate adjustment.
- The owners requesting service only represent 4% of the total ERCs. Everyone else who is aware of it opposes it.

Should this application be approved, the negative impacts will come without any demonstrable benefit or need. There will also be unintended consequences, as is always the case when a rubber-stamped solution is applied to a unique situation.

We respectfully request that you use the full extent of your authority to consider all of the factors in this case and deny this application.

The Palm Island Estates Association, Inc. Action Committee

Meryl Schaffer

Co-Chair, Communications

PIE Communications Team
Palm Island Estates Association, Inc
<https://www.palmislandestates.org/>

