

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

VOTE SHEET

April 1, 2025

FILED 4/1/2025
DOCUMENT NO. 02479-2025
FPSC - COMMISSION CLERK

Item 5

Docket No. 20240032-SU – Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC.

Issue 1: Has Environmental Utilities, LLC met the filing and noticing requirements pursuant to Rules 25-30.030 and 25-30.033, Florida Administrative Code?

Recommendation: Yes. The Utility properly notified potential customers of its application and met the noticing requirements of Rule 25-30.030, F.A.C. The application meets all other requirements of Rule 25-30.033, F.A.C.




APPROVED

COMMISSIONERS ASSIGNED: Graham, Clark, Passidomo Smith

COMMISSIONERS' SIGNATURES

MAJORITY

DISSENTING

REMARKS/DISSENTING COMMENTS:

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Issue 2: Is there a need for service in Environmental Utilities, LLC's proposed service territory?

Recommendation: Yes. The Utility has provided the four items, required by Rule 25-30.033(1)(k), F.A.C., an applicant must provide to demonstrate a need for service, including requests for service from existing property owners and potential developers. In addition, a resolution adopted by the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners affirming a need for service was provided.

DENIED

Issue 3: Is Environmental Utilities, LLC's application consistent with Charlotte County's Comprehensive Plan and/or Sewer Master Plan?

Recommendation: EU's application does not appear to be consistent with the County's Comprehensive Plan but does appear to be consistent with the Sewer Master Plan. However, the County's Resolution establishes support for EU's application, and the Commission is not bound by Charlotte County's Comp Plan or Sewer Master Plan.

APPROVED

Issue 4: Will the certification of Environmental Utilities, LLC result in the creation of a utility which will be in competition with or duplication of any other system?

Recommendation: No. There are no other wastewater service providers in or near the area who are willing or able to provide wastewater service to the proposed service territory.

MOOT

Issue 5: Does Environmental Utilities, LLC have the financial ability to serve the requested territory?

Recommendation: Yes, the Utility has the financial ability to serve the requested territory.

MOOT

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Issue 6: Does Environmental Utilities, LLC have the technical ability to serve the requested territory?

Recommendation: Yes, EU demonstrated that, with the retention of outside professionals for the construction and operations of its system, it has the technical ability to serve the requested territory.

MOOT

Issue 7: Will Environmental Utilities, LLC have sufficient plant capacity to serve the requested territory?

Recommendation: Yes. The Bulk Sewer Treatment Agreement (Agreement) with Charlotte County reserves adequate capacity to serve the proposed service territory and demonstrates that EU has planned for the estimated needs of the proposed service area.

MOOT

Issue 8: Has Environmental Utilities, LLC provided evidence that it has continued use of the land upon which the utility treatment facilities are or will be located?

Recommendation: Wastewater treatment will occur pursuant to a Bulk Service Agreement. As such, the Utility does not own or operate the treatment facilities and evidence of continued use of the land is not required or applicable in this instance.

MOOT

Issue 9: Is it in the public interest for Environmental Utilities, LLC to be granted a wastewater certificate for the territory proposed in its application?

Recommendation: Yes. Based on the recommendations in Issues 1 through 8, it is in the public interest to grant the Utility Certificate No. 585-S to provide wastewater service to the territory described in Attachment A.

DENIED

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Issue 10: What is the appropriate return on equity for Environmental Utilities, LLC?

Recommendation: The appropriate return on equity (ROE) is 8.66 percent with a range of plus or minus 100 basis points.

MOOT

Issue 11: What are the appropriate rates and rate structures for Environmental Utilities, LLC?

Recommendation: Staff's recommended wastewater rates, shown on Schedule No. 4, should be approved. The Utility's proposal to include a repression adjustment should be denied; therefore, the staff-recommended rates shown on Schedule No. 4 do not include a repression adjustment. The rates should be effective for services rendered or connections made on or after the stamped approval date on the tariff sheets, pursuant to Rule 25-30.475, F.A.C. The Utility should be required to charge the approved rates until authorized to change them by the Commission in a subsequent proceeding.

MOOT

Issue 12: What are the appropriate initial customer deposits for Environmental Utilities, LLC?

Recommendation: The appropriate initial customer deposit is \$318 for wastewater for the residential 5/8 inch x 3/4 inch meter size. The initial customer deposits for all other residential meter sizes and all general service meter sizes should be two times the average estimated bill. The approved customer deposits should be effective for connections made on or after the stamped approval date on the tariff sheets pursuant to Rule 25-30.475, F.A.C. The Utility should be required to collect the approved initial customer deposits until authorized to change them by the Commission in a subsequent proceeding.

MOOT

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Issue 13: What are the appropriate miscellaneous service charges for Environmental Utilities, LLC?

Recommendation: The appropriate miscellaneous service charges are shown on Schedule No. 5 and should be approved. The Utility should file revised tariff sheets and a proposed customer notice to reflect the Commission-approved charges. The approved charges should be effective for services rendered on or after the stamped approval date on the tariff sheet provided customers have received notice pursuant to Rule 25-30.475(1), F.A.C. The Utility should provide proof of noticing within 10 days of rendering the approved notice.

MOOT

Issue 14: What are the appropriate service availability charges for Environmental Utilities, LLC?

Recommendation: The appropriate service availability charges are shown on Schedule No. 5 and should be approved. In addition, the Utility's proposed service availability policy should be approved. The approved charges and policy should be effective for connections made on or after the stamped approval date on the tariff sheets pursuant to Rule 25-30.475, F.A.C. EU should be required to collect its approved service availability charges until authorized to change them by the Commission in a subsequent proceeding.

MOOT

Issue 15: Should this docket be closed?

Recommendation: This docket should be closed.

APPROVED