

**Jacob Veagh**

---

**From:** Jacob Veagh on behalf of Records Clerk  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 11:20 AM  
**To:** 'Gregory A. Hearing'  
**Cc:** Consumer Contact  
**Subject:** RE: Docket #20200226-SU

Good Morning, Greg Hearing

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket 20200226, and the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach will be notified.

**Jacob Veagh**

Commission Deputy Clerk I  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
[Jacob.Veagh@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:Jacob.Veagh@psc.state.fl.us)  
850.413.6656

---

**From:** Gregory A. Hearing <Gregory.Hearing@gray-robinson.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 23, 2022 12:45 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Docket #20200226-SU  
**Importance:** High

My name is Greg Hearing. I am a homeowner on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI). I am writing to express my strong opposition to the EU's application for wastewater service covering LGI and other local barrier islands.

LGI is a unique part of what little is left of old Florida. There are no roads, no commercial operations and no tourism on the LGI. It is important to keep LGI that way for generations to come. The EU's application would disturb the natural habitat of the island and start it down the inevitable road to commercialization. We islanders love the island and take very good care to preserve it, including annually servicing and inspecting our septic tanks. The County charges us a fee for our tanks and makes sure they are inspected and safe for the environment annually. In fact, we have yet to see any water quality study of LGI area water which indicates that we are harming the environment. We are more concerned that a subaqueous sewer pipe system crossing the bay from LGI to the mainland poses a much more significant threat to the area water quality than our septic tanks. One serious spill by a subaqueous pipe system will

ruin the bay. Hundreds of small leaks along the pipeline would do the same and may not even be discoverable.

We believe the EU is only arguing that our septic tanks harm the environment for its own clear economic advantage. The EU, which didn't win the right to provide wastewater service to LGI by a public bid process, stands to make a lot of money off the islanders if its application is approved. The hookup fee alone will be devastating to the islanders not to mention that the monthly fee will be more than twice what it is on the mainland in Placida for water and wastewater combined. Moreover, islanders would have to use their own electric to run the system and many homes may not have the capacity to do so bringing the cost up for such islanders even more. We believe that the EU doesn't have the experience or the economic stamina to take on what is a classic local government function. If we have to go to a sewer system, the County should install and maintain it rather than letting an inexperienced private entity that is way in over its head financially and technically attempt to do it. The County would likely have to come in after the fact and clean up the mess. It is my understanding that the EU has never built out and/or run a sewer system. In contrast, the County is an expert at it. So, if LGI has to go to a sewer system due to environmental concerns, then the County should install and operate it. That way, it will be handled well and be financially manageable for island residents.

Thank you in advance for your time and thoughtful attention to this important island issue.

Respectfully,

Greg Hearing  
9706 LGI  
Placida, Fl. 33946  
813-928-1334

**Gregory A. Hearing**

Shareholder

Board Certified in Labor and Employment Law,  
Education Law and Civil Trial by The Florida Bar

**T** 813-273-5000

**F** 813-273-5145

GrayRobinson, P.A. ■ 401 East Jackson Street, Suite 2700, Tampa, Florida 33602

This e-mail is intended only for the individual(s) or entity(s) named within the message. This e-mail might contain legally privileged and confidential information. If you properly received this e-mail as a client or retained expert, please hold it in confidence to protect the attorney-client or work product privileges. Should the intended recipient forward or disclose this message to another person or party, that action could constitute a waiver of the attorney-client privilege. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is prohibited by the sender and to do so might constitute a violation of the Electronic

Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. section 2510-2521. If this communication was received in error we apologize for the intrusion. Please notify us by reply e-mail and delete the original message without reading same. Nothing in this e-mail message shall, in and of itself, create an attorney-client relationship with the sender.