

Antonia Hover

From: Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 3:32 PM
To: 'Lindsay Yates'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Docket No. 20200226-SU

Good Afternoon, Lindsay Yates.

We will be placing the comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20200226, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Thank you!

Toni Hover

*Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
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Phone: (850) 413-6467*

From: Lindsay Yates <lyates@springsips.com>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 2:10 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 No. 20200226-SU

Commissioners:

My name is Lindsay Yates and I live at 2 Pointe Way on Don Pedro Island. I write to you to state my **opposition** to the application of Environmental Utilities for your approval of a Certificate of Authorization.

I have been a property owner on Don Pedro Island since 2001 and a fulltime resident since 2008. During that time I have replaced a septic system in an older home and installed two septic systems in homes which my husband and I built. The more recent home was completed in 2019. I am not necessarily opposed to central sewer, but I am vehemently opposed to this proposal. There is absolutely nothing about the EU proposal that would inspire any sort of confidence in this operator to build, operate and maintain a system. Many of the letters that have been sent to you were written by people with more expertise than I in the areas of environmental impacts (not just the arguments for septic vs. sewer, but also the environmental impacts of construction of the project on this fragile barrier island), the disadvantages (including additional costs to the homeowner) of a grinder system as proposed by EU vs. a vacuum system, the financial ability and technical ability of the applicant, and the outlandish rates and charges proposed by EU.

I think that previous correspondence on file and the testimony of expert witnesses has proven beyond a doubt that EU does not have the ability to satisfactorily meet the needs of the residents on these islands. Additionally, I personally find it offensive that during his deposition Mr. Boyer when describing his personal observations of seeing human waste on the ground, waste floating around after storms, septic tanks under water, and waste contained in 55 gallon drums did not make it clear that these observations were confined to Little Gasparilla Island, not Don Pedro, Knight or Palm Islands. I guarantee you that those are not

the conditions under which I live. It's rather hard to believe that the tourists who continue to pay to rent homes on Little Gasparilla Island are not complaining about the awful odors that Mr. Boyer describes.

On July 14th, 2020, the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners approved a Bulk Sewer Treatment Agreement with EU. This Agreement was entered into with no fanfare, no advance notice to island residents and no (as far as I know) request for proposals from other companies. As far as I know, the County did not even put out a request for competitive proposals. To the best of my knowledge, the County did not consider the financial ability of the applicant, the technical expertise of the applicant nor did they care what the applicant might charge its customers. This was not a civic-minded offer to improve a problem that no one is sure really exists – no water studies have been done; no numbers generated on the number and age of the existing septic systems – this was simply a way for EU to profit at the expense of its friends and neighbors.

Central sewer installation?? Maybe. But not by this particular for-profit company. The island residents deserve honesty and professionalism. I have been told by acquaintances of Mr. Boyer that he has indicated that this is “a done deal.” I certainly hope that is not true.

I hereby formally request that the PSC deny the application of Environmental Utilities LLC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lindsay C. Yates
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