

Charlie Smith

From: Charlie Smith on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 1:09 PM
To: 'pbholmes0@gmail.com'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Docket #20240032-SU

Good afternoon Paul and Barbara Holmes,

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.

Best regards,

Charlie Smith II

Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850
850-413-6770

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From: pbholmes0@gmail.com <pbholmes0@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 12:07 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: FW: Docket #20240032-SU

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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Paul Holmes](#)
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 1:58 PM
To: clerk@psc.state.fl.us
Cc: Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us;
Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us; Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

Dear Commissioners,

We respectfully request that the PSC deny Environmental Utilities application for wastewater service to Little Gasparilla Island, Don Pedro Island and Knight Island. About two years ago EU(Environment Utilities) application for the same area was denied by the PSC on the grounds that there was no need for the

service. Nothing has changed since the earlier application except that we are in much worse condition financially due to hurricane Ian. The Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan designates us as a Rural Service Area. It mandates on-site septic systems for Rural Service Areas. If it prohibits the County from installing a central sewer system, why is it okay for a privately owned utility to install a central sewer system? On-site septics are a way to control pollution and density. Does the County want to see high rises on the vulnerable barrier islands? These islands are the last vestiges of Old Florida on the coast.

The average water and sewer bill per month excluding taxes in Florida, based on 4000 gallons, is \$68.14. Our average water bill excluding sewer on Little Gasparilla Island is over \$110.00 per month. This water is brought to us by Environmental Utilities. The monthly bill for sewer only is estimated by EU to be \$263.57. Therefore our monthly water and sewer bill would be \$373.57. THIS FIGURE - \$373.57 - IS PROHIBITIVELY HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE MONTHLY WATER/SEWER BILL IN FLORIDA OF \$68.14!!!

THE UPFRONT COSTS FOR THE CENTRAL SEWER SYSTEM ARE ALSO OUTRAGEOUS!!! There will be a \$12,000 initial hook up fee plus \$1097 for a sewer lateral installation fee plus an initial deposit of \$414. That \$13,411 is NOT PRO RATED!!!

Sadly a low-pressure sewer system must be pumped out on a regular basis. At this time a pump out costs \$1600. Also the homeowner owns the pump and is responsible for its maintenance . What is the life of the pump? How often must it be replaced? The cost of a new pump? Then there is the necessity to have a generator to prevent sewage backup on our property in case of a lengthy power outage which there surely will be.

Again we respectfully request that the PSC deny Environmental Utilities application for wastewater service to Little Gasparilla Island, Don Pedro Island and Knight Island. We invite you to visit the islands and see one of the last pristine pieces of coastline in the state of Florida. Please help us keep it that way.

Respectfully,

Paul and Barbara Holmes
Full Time Residents For 30 Years
9496 Alborado
Little Gasparilla Island