

**Charlie Smith**

**From:** Charlie Smith on behalf of Records Clerk  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 2:37 PM  
**To:** 'Naval Architect'  
**Cc:** Consumer Contact  
**Subject:** RE: Docket #20240032-SU - Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC.

Good afternoon Joe Comer,

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:** Naval Architect <naval\_architect@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 1:58 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Chairman 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>; Office of Commissioner Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>  
**Subject:** Docket #20240032-SU - Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC.

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Commissioners – Please find our input regarding the subject matter attached. Best Regards

*Joe Comer*  
251-709-0799

Joseph H Comer III  
Marsha L Franklin  
8934 Gulf St.  
Placida, FL 33946  
(Mailing address PO Box 422, 33946)

23 April 2024

Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumand Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Via email - Clerk@psc.state.fl.us, Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us,  
Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us, Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us,  
Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us, Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us

Subject: **Docket #20240032-SU** - Application for certificate to provide wastewater service  
in Charlotte County by Environmental Utilities, LLC.

Dear Commissioner.LaRosa, Commissioner.Clark, Commissioner.Passidomo,  
Commissioner.Fay and Commissioner.Graham:

We are new owners to Little Gasparilla Island this year and have recently heard of the subject  
proposal that seems un-necessary and a system not widely used or proven. Please consider  
the following:

#### Environmental

There has been no study in our area that proves the need for a new system. A low pressure  
system, not being a central system that handles both liquid and solids would be a major  
destruction to the habitat and the endangered residence of the gopher tortoise.

What would be the impact of the removal of all the drain field mounds? There will be significant  
damage to public and private landscape and hardscape in the removal of old systems and the  
installation of the proposed new LPS system.

#### Sewer Spill

Our current septic system permitted #SW 85-264E on 7/17/1985 was inspected before we  
purchased the house this year and found to be in very good operating condition only needing a  
'pump out' for which was immediately scheduled. To this day, this has not been accomplished  
because of the limited capacity of the 'honey wagon'. As we understand the proposed LPS  
system, this problem of timely pump-out capability would still exist. The cost and the delay for  
every day maintenance would not improve.

Walking the island, there is no noticeable sewage odor, not like when passing some public  
systems ashore. Even with heavy rains there are no spills which regularly occur at public  
systems.

Power outages are experienced often on Little Gasparilla Island especially during storms and  
hurricanes which occurred for a long period of time during Hurricane Ian. This will require  
homeowners to install emergency generators or incur the hardship and cost of living off island  
until the situation is resolved.

### Mandatory Hook-up

Current Charlotte County regulations require homes to connect to central water and wastewater within one (1) year of availability and would assume this would apply to the proposed LPS system for which there would be enormous homeowner costs for installation. Most properties only have room for their current septic system, so the old system would have to be removed and the proposed system installed leaving the homeowner without service for some long period of time. If the existing tank were to be used, few properties would meet the ten (10) foot radius around the manhole.

### Easements

Normal utility easements occur in public roadways, however on Little Gasparilla Island many roadways are private pathways, sand and one lane wide. Many homes do not front on these pathways and often septic systems are at the rear of the property so the LPS will have to cross private property with no regard for homeowner rights. There will be a cost to litigate these easements.

### Transportation

Little Gasparilla Island is only accessible by boat. And we like it that way! However, a major construction project like this would take years to complete. Using Hurricane Ian two (2) years ago as an example, re-construction is still underway with some project completions not in sight. Construction equipment, material, labor would all have to come over by boat/barge. Not something most would look forward to after recent experiences.

It appears a new sewer system of any kind is not needed on Little Gasparilla Island. The subject proposed LPS system would have an associated exorbitant cost to homeowners as well as the operator and would translate into a huge monthly homeowner utility costs. There is no apparent benefit to the subject proposed LPS system or any 'new' system.

We request that you vote to reject the subject application and do the same on any future similar ideas.

Sincerely



Joseph H Comer III  
Marsha L Franklin