

Hiep Nguyen

From: Kathy Stokes <kitkatstokes@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 4:29 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: RE: Docket #20240032-SU
Attachments: PSC Letter 2024.pdf
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Dear Public Service Commission,

Please find my letter of objection to your approval of a wastewater certificate for Environmental Utilities, Inc. I am asking for your commission to deny the application. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Stokes

Florida Public Service Commission

2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Phone: (800) 342-3552

Dear Commissioners,

I am Kathleen Stokes of 8892 Gulf Street on Little Gasparilla Island, a bridgeless barrier island. It seems like yesterday that I was writing to you in our ongoing battle with Environmental Utilities LLC (EU) who is seeking once again to gain a wastewater certificate from the PSC. I am again formally requesting that you deny this certificate for so many reasons.

The word is that Mr. Jack Boyer plans to secure the certificate and then sell it, making a ton of money and retiring. This would be done on the backs of the island homeowners who have just gone through "hell" after being hit by 155 mph Hurricane Ian. We were devastated. I remember saying as I viewed my catastrophically damaged home thinking, "Thank God, the PSC didn't approve Jack Boyer's sewer system!" We had no electricity for 10 days and had it been approved we'd be up to our elbows in sewage, contributing to our devastation. My home is still being repaired! Now we are fighting this again just two years later!

There are so many reasons to deny this certificate to this private for-profit LLC company which offers no single point of recourse if it fails or goes bankrupt. EU has never been in the wastewater business. He does not have the technical expertise to construct, operate, and maintain a sewer system. Even at the last public hearing he said he would turn it over to people who had the expertise, so it appears evident that he is in it again for the money! His water company on Little Gasparilla Island has been poorly run, not always notifying homeowners of boil water notices, placing lines wherever they wanted without respecting owners' rights or communicating with them. He was even cited and fined for installing pipes illegally, not securing permits and using the wrong equipment. Then there is the fact of him stealing water from Don Pedro State Park by piping it to his water plant. Honesty should be a big factor for the Commissioners as they consider this project.

There has been no testing of our area waters by Charlotte County. If they ever do find a real need, Charlotte County should be the one to install a sewer system. We are in the rural service area of Charlotte County and supposedly the county is not allowed to install sewers here due to their Comprehensive Plan, so it certainly seems ridiculous that they can let a private for-profit company apply to do it. The costs will be as astronomical for homeowners, estimated to be somewhere around \$13,000-\$20,000+!!! This is very unfair when compared to other areas of Charlotte County, plus the loss of respect for our owner's property rights. Additionally, there is threatened wildlife on our island which would be disturbed by this massive project. Our sandy paths would be torn up, landscaping and native plants ravished, we would be required to give up an easement on our property without compensation, and we have no guarantee/confidence that in the face of another hurricane, that this company has a plan in place.

In our Homeowner's last battle with EU two years ago, an eminent scientist/professor from the University of South Florida testified that our septic systems were not causing problems with the waters around our islands. Mr. Boyer now has a professor from a university on the east coast of Florida writing of problems occurring on that coast due to waters being released from Lake Okeechobee down the St. Lucie River. He hasn't tested our surrounding waters but assigns their same problems to us. Please take that into consideration.

I could go on and on about why EU should be denied this certificate as I've been on the island for 25 years. 99% of Little Gasparilla, Don Pedro, Palm Island, and Knights Island homeowners are asking for your denial. The 1%

who are in favor are non-residents, relatives, or friends of the applicant (last go around, many even were sent from his own email address).

Thank you very much for your commission's consideration of what the 99% of homeowners are requesting:
DENIAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES LLC's REQUEST FOR A WASTEWATER CERTIFICATE!!!!

Sincerely,

Kathleen Stokes

Homeowner, 8892 Gulf Street, Little Gasparilla Island

Placida, FL 33946

(813) 245-9151

4/29/2024