

Brian Schultz

From: Brian Schultz on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2022 3:54 PM
To: 'jltremblay@verizon.net'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: FW: EU docket # 20200226-SU
Attachments: sewage letter (1).pdf

Good Afternoon,

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

Sincerely,

Brian Schultz

Commission Deputy Clerk II
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850.413.6770

PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.

From: Tremblay <jltremblay@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2022 3:34 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: EU docket # 20200226-SU

Please include this letter concerning EU docket #20200226-SU

Thank you.
Laurie Tremblay LGI house #8266

Environmental Utilities, LLC

Application for certificate to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County

Docket NO. 20200226-SU

Laurie Tremblay

8266 Little Gasparilla Island, Charlotte County, FL

My husband, Raymond, and I have owned our property on LGI for 40+ years. Our full-time residence is in Winter Haven, FL. We are now both retired (teacher and letter carrier), and our plans were to spend at least 50%, if not 100%, of our retirement years on the island. It is important for you to understand that we love the LGI way of life, and our small cottage is not a huge rental income for us. We rent to a few friends throughout the year. Unfortunately, we may not be able to keep our house due to the cost of insurance, taxes, water, and now an expensive waste water treatment service. The only alternative would be to rent more, and not fulfil our retirement dreams or even to sell.

EU does have the water service, and last month we paid a quarterly bill with a base charge of \$236.10, plus \$23.14 for water used (2719 gallons). Now, we are told that the sewage connection will cost \$13,000 (or more) plus the **monthly** charge of \$256.66 per 4,000 gallons of water used. That is \$3079.92 for sewage and \$1045(appx) for water. Water and sewage would be over \$4000.00 a year for a cottage (less than 900 square feet)! This does not include any purchase/upkeep of equipment, electrical panels, electricians, generators, etc. that will be necessary.

In Winter Haven, our water bill averages around \$22.00 a month for around 3400 gallons. EU's monthly bill is about \$86.00 for around 3000 gallons. In Winter Haven, the sewage bill for 4000 gallons would be about \$36.00 a month, EU's bill would be \$256.66 a month, more than 7 times greater. In the January 23 issue of the Lakeland Ledger, our local paper, there was an article about Winter Haven water and sewage hikes (increase of 2.5%) and initial sewage hook-ups (increase of 15%). A sewer connection for new construction will cost \$4,196.50. This proposal was suggested by Raftelis Financial Consultants, INC after a fiscal analysis. EU's connection fee looks like it would be at least \$13,000, but it could be several thousand more.

According to Charlotte County Utilities webpage, it would cost around \$10,000 for an LPS connection. Why is EU charging \$13,000? I can understand the \$2,000-\$3,000 difference for connection given the exceptional circumstances on the island. However, in CC the sewage base charge is \$40.41, plus \$5.63 per 1000 gallons, a total of \$62.93 for 4,000 gallons. Why is EU charging \$256.66 for 4,000 gallons? Even for wastewater only customers, the charge is around \$100 a month. In addition, CC provides for a non-transferable loan for connection fees that EU is not offering its customers. Cape Coral's monthly sewer rates are \$57.23 a month.

In a letter dated September 27, 2021 to the Florida Public Service Commission from Craig Rudy and Brandon Moody there was this statement; "The Comprehensive Plan dictates that Charlotte County Utilities shall develop a cost-effective sewer expansion program...I do not think that EU's plan is cost effective based on my research mentioned above. PSC asks if the rates are reasonable, just, and fair...I would say NO. If the EU customer costs were similar to county costs (CC, Cape Coral, and Polk anyway), I think there would be less resistance to this plan. Many of us feel that this is another example of something we have no control of, but will affect our lives for a long time. Perhaps Charlotte County should cover the difference between what the county is charging for sewage, \$60-\$70 a month, and what EU will be charging, \$256.66 a month? I ask you to please take this into consideration as a decision is made concerning the wastewater treatment system proposed by EU. Thank you.