

Berks group acquires capital steam system

By Mark Abrams
Staff Writer

HARRISBURG — Harrisburg Steam Works Ltd., a consortium of Berks County investors, has completed acquisition of the Harrisburg Steam Heating System from Pennsylvania Power & Light Co., officials announced Wednesday.

William P. Goodwin, vice president of marketing for Harrisburg Steam Works, said under the terms of the agreement, PP&L will continue to operate the system through November so employees and the new partnership can familiarize themselves with operating and maintenance requirements.

Goodwin, and his partners, Bruce Mangione and Jan P. Sockel, are former Gilbert Associates Inc. engineers. Their group was one of six developers who offered to purchase the steam plant after PP&L announced intentions to sell it.

GOODWIN SAID the facility has been an integral part of Harrisburg since 1926, when PP&L took over the Walnut Street steam plant. It currently serves 450 cus-

tomers, including state offices, the Harrisburg City Government Center, the Strawberry Square Complex, and the Taylor-Wharton Division of Harsco Corp.

In addition to running the plant, Goodwin said, his group has signed a long-term contract to purchase steam from a cogeneration facility to be built next to the Walnut Street plant. That facility, which will generate electricity and steam, will be built, owned, and operated by Paxton Creek Cogeneration Associates.

Goodwin said Harrisburg Energy Company, an affiliate of Harrisburg Steam Works Ltd., is the general partner in the firm. He noted construction of the cogeneration facility, consisting of two diesel engine generators powered by natural gas with waste heat recovery units, will begin today and be completed by next summer.

Between 40 and 60 workers will be needed during the construction phase of the project. When completed, it is estimated that 50 people will be employed to run the operation.

The electricity produced at the Harrisburg Energy Company will be sold to PP&L, Goodwin said.