

# Firms buy city steam plant, Paxton Creek Cogeneration

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Two energy companies, one based in New Jersey and the other in Virginia, have paid \$4.5 million to buy the Harrisburg Steam Works, which provides steam for heating to the Capitol and more than 320 other customers in the city.

The partners also purchased Paxton Creek Cogeneration Associates, which owns a cogeneration facility and sells electricity to Pennsylvania Power & Light Co. and steam to Harrisburg Steam Works. The purchase price was not disclosed.

Atlantic Thermal Systems of Atlantic City, N.J., and The Eastern Group Inc. of Alexan-

dria, Va., announced the acquisitions yesterday.

The transfer of ownership is pending approval by the state Public Utility Commission, said Carl Fogler, spokesman for Atlantic Thermal Systems. No layoffs are expected, company officials said. The steam plant employs 38 people.

The steam operation and cogeneration plant are both located on Ninth Street, behind The Patriot-News building off Market Street. They are owned by separate entities but operate in conjunction with each other.

The cogeneration facility is owned by a partnership of 60 investors. Harrisburg Steam Works is owned by five investors, said Bruce Mangione, one

of the owners and manager of the steam plant.

"We are not anticipating that the customers would see a difference in what we believe to be very good service," said Fogler.

Atlantic Thermal Systems is a subsidiary of Atlantic Energy, which develops, owns and operates thermal heating and cooling systems and provides other energy-related services. The company is constructing a new district energy center that will provide heating and cooling services to the Atlantic City area.

The Eastern Group provides energy products and services to industrial and commercial customers nationwide.