



Opposition to county sewer system sale grows

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Opposition to the proposed sale of the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority's sewer system has grown, with the Bucks County Association of Township Officials board passing a resolution against a sale to the "privately held, investor owned Aqua Pennsylvania."

The association stated it was "opposed to the sale of the BCWSA's assets to Aqua Pennsylvania, and implores the BCWSA to abandon negotiations with Aqua and to continue to operate as an independent, non-profit agency."

And at the Bucks County Commissioners' meeting Wednesday, several residents spoke against the sale. The commissioners said they were taking the comments they've received under advisement.

Aqua Pennsylvania has offered to purchase BCWSA's sewer system for



\$1.1 billion in one of the largest bids for a public sewer system in the country. The BCWSA serves 75,000 sewer and 25,000 water customers.

Most of the sale proceeds would go to Bucks County. But hundreds of area residents turned out for two public hearings last week at which the proposal was explained by Aqua and authority officials, and many questioned how the sale would benefit ratepayers.

The resolution the township officials association passed July 28 states that "Aqua has a history of increasing its sewer rates substantially" and listed municipalities that had sold their sewer systems to Aqua and how much the rates had risen — "including Limerick Township whose rates increased