

Table Number

I have questions about...

- 1 Why are we considering this when it would hand over a public resource to a corporation whose profit will lead to cutting corners and raising rates?
Why does people's gas want to buy PWSA? Because they can make \$\$\$ off of our basic needs.
- 2 PUC board appointments? Political?
Do private corps have the benefit of the public in mind or bottom line?
How does this utility possess needed expertise (gas doesn't equal water)
- 3 Who appoints the local advisory committee?
What role would the public have in making decisions if water is governed by local advisory committee?
How do we regain public control after transfer of control to PUC?
What does it mean to be "subject to" the governance of a local advisory committee?
How do we ensure that labor is hired locally, has collective bargaining and is retained by PWSA?
We want water quality improvements not just "monitoring and enforcement"
- 4 How would this option differ from what has happened in numerous Mexican towns, where one entity owns the water and changes the towns people outrageous prices?
Outrageous to the point that coca-cola costs less than drinking water
- 5 I don't believe that union jobs are guaranteed with privatization
Can't public PWSA change hiring to include o the city
Can we no change how we deal with sewage and water generally to ease burden less water consumption, greywater legalization, compostion toilets, mandatory rain barrels
Tax UPMC!
Can this model be applie for a stormwater utility-separate from the drinking water and santary sewer systems?
Can we raise money by taxing UPMC?
- 6 What is the incentive for private investment? Our water fees going to their profits?
What is the benefit to the company?
are non-profit private companies an option to partner with?
- 7 What are incentives of investor-owned private entity to make improvements in system?
What is goal of private entity besides making profits?
Is private entity liable for all costs?
Loss of union jobs-race to the bottom mentality?
- 8
- 9 PWSA needs to develop and implement an assistance program for families and single people similar to other utilities finance assistance.
How to raise philanthropic funds for water minorities under a private company
Who would be involved? What other utilities? How big is the border?
Don't trust state oversight (PUC). Water should be a local government fuction. Trust and transparency
Cost: How far are we spreading PWSA customer base and what other regions would be involved? They may have other concerns/priorities
We need an expert, experienced head of this or not a lot of costly consultants
Be more fair to people who experience water damage to their homes due to main water line breaks
Experinced long term billing errors. Need competent director of IT. Updated IT system. Cost should not be passed to consumer
Poor management this should have been addressed years ago
Health and safety/cost: Without having an investor-owned utility, can you set up a regulatory agency to address public concerns/possibly preven utility shut-off?
More feedback contact
- 10 Can large companies/"non-profits" that operate in the city pay a larger rate/anything than the average ratepayer?
What could a private company bring that the city cannot bring? (capital? expertise? financing?)
How much local control will be lost if PUC takes over?
- 11 How would this work with a stormwater fee?
How would this impact current contracts?
- 12 Cost #3: How would people outside of PWSA service area pay for our costs?
Implementability: What does this mean?
T&T #1: What's the governance behind advisory committee? How are they appointed
- 13 Role of consultants (re: monitoring their work)
Getting large non-profits How do we make green infrastructures affordable to contribute and pay fair share
How do any of these models become "revenue generators" to reduce costs
- 16 There seems to be no cap on the destruction caused if an investor goes belly up
Reminds me of credit default shrap-a shell game, using real people and infrastructure patterns
- 17 Have the PWSA employees been surveyed for what they think they should happen? Or what would make the org. successful/efficient?
Who would assume PWSA's existing debt load in the model?
How much flexibility would the utility have in types of infrastructure deployed? Would all plans have to be approved by PUC thus reducing potential for innovation?
Does the city have enough/or qualified lawyers to negotiate this contract?
Who is on the "local advisory committee", what authority would they have (if any), and what happens if the utility does not need their input?
How do we get out of this if x years down the road we decide we don't like it
What private utility would activley want to purchase the system and under what terms?
How would customers who have trouble paying their bills be protected from shutoffs, etc?
Any profit to investor would be money not spent on materials, maintenance, good jobs, or long term benefits. How can this logically be overall public benefit
- 19 Why don't we have a computerized maintenance? Do this first
Board...do we vote them in?
- 20 What is the incentive of the company not to raise rates even higher than needed to turn a profit?
What would stop them from making profits in the short term but the system in the long run?
If costs are spread over current customers, will they serve for institutions like the zoo, Phipps, UPMC and the city

I am concerned about...

- There is absolutely no accountability here
It would hold down rates for a while, but then the need for profit would take over not a permanent fix.
Everything about this
Corporate takeover of America
Losing control of all our water rights which in turn affects health, economy and community
PUC = Political
Connections needed with Alcosan
The cost of storm water investment would still be soley the local responsibility (\$2 billion)
The public has no true power over the decisions made by the private company
With no competition a private company has no incentive to reduce cost of services
This is an awful idea. Period. No benefits!
Accountability
- Water is a human right. No company has the right to own the birthright of all people
- Profit overshadowing public long term interests!
(again if there's profit to be made, it should accrue to the public/city. If there is, then a private company will seek short-term gains and get out there is no magical source of money (except say bonds)
If needed improvements under our current system are just too expensive, perhaps we need to change our expectations stop flushing drinking water (and using water lawns, and was cars etc.) Introduce local
If needed improvements under our current system are just too expensive, perhaps we need to change our expectations stop flushing drinking water (and using water lawns, and was cars etc.) Introduce local
m concerned that this option will be seen as an easy way out
- Trust. Accountability. Health and safety.
Goldman Sachs (& other wall st. firms) putting profit over people
Bad ideal Privatization of public utility-especially our water-would likely lead to unhealthy water, poor quality service, more costs, and we would not have a say! Privatization has shown many examples of such
Private companies prioritizing profit over public good
Different priorities from public
With a bulic or P3 model, the buck can stop with the political leaders the city's people elect. With a private company, will that be the case, or will they hide problems to benefit the stock investors?
Please keep residency requirement. Plenty of engineers at CMU and Pitt
Like using green for any updates. Value living wage for PWSA employees.
Poorer service and higher rates
Reduced maintenance as means to increase profits
Lower staffing levels
Profit overiding safety
No local accountability
No Penn America, very high makes things private
No public board, don't like this option at all
Accountability: Water should be local issue, don't trust PUC regulation of gas and other utilities
Just another "quick fix" without real solutions
Citizens should retain ownership of public asset
We need a broader vision for a longer period to 2050
Water meters need installed in all city bldgs and institutions that are recieving water free. Alt brought upfront costs will be needed it will be recovered. Everyone should pay their fair share. It will generate revenue
Public oversight is weakened compared to now. Trust/Transparency
Green Infrastructure: May not be a priority for a private company
Resolve combined sewer overflow
Don't want to lose local control of our values (green, transparent, labor)
Losing recourse as public if water rates go up and water readings are wrong
- Large companies/"non-profits" not paying for water at all
Water is a human right and thus a company shouldn't profit off of it
Accountability
Losing union jobs with good benefits
How does this save \$ if private company must make profit margins?
Accountability
I like city owned because of the lost places for workers to get pensions is with government
Utility needs to factor in public input for families/speed of pb pipe replacement
- Inequity of resources per a shrinking tax base
Accountability is concern with every model/strategy
Getting and keepign high level engineering talent
The higher rates for capital needs, do not want this
Tax payer would have to pay for profit of investors
If someone makes a bad deal (for them) a good deal for the rate payers...do we trust them to make smart choices??
If someone makes a good deal (for them)...a bad deal for the rate payers..how can that be good? Seems like we can't win
Long, bad history of private citizens exempting themselves, and their companies, from any real gov't oversight.
How successful the PUC would be at regulating this investor-owned utility
How stormwater management might "spin off" under this model. A separate, potentially public stormwater utility seems like an additional layer of complexity, lack of transparency, and coordination difficulty.
- Will they be paid living wage?
Has to be fair
Lower cost is good...but concerned about tradeoffs
Integrated board diversity
What does PUC cover
Is there demand for this?
Public employees dedicated to their work. They're us.
Concerned about a separate entity for GI
Safety first...is this ok?
Accountability...is it ok?
Once we sell it we can't get ou of the contract
A private company will not prioritize reating a customer assistance program to help families who can't afford to pay their bill
A profit motive will be the determining factor when decisions are made
Exonn is also a publicly regulated company...
Implentability is dependent on interest of ideal utilities
Private water has historically been bad for consumers/citizens