

PPL Refuses to Pay Taxes

- **Utility refuses to pay**

Author: CHARLIE YOUNG Dispatch/Sunday News

Date: May 12, 2002

Publication: York Dispatch, The (PA)

Officials in Northeastern School District, where more than 20 percent of the residents live below the poverty line, have proposed cutting textbooks, maintenance, technology and athletics. But they are still more than \$850,000 short of balancing the budget for next school year.

If only PPL Corp. would pay its taxes, district officials say.

- **Power play on taxes**

Date: May 14, 2002

Publication: York Dispatch, The (PA)

Pennsylvania's deregulation of the electric utility industry just keeps proving the old adage "if it looks too good to be true, it probably is."

A few years ago, deregulation boosters said it would instill competition in the marketplace, driving down costs by forcing power generators to compete for your business.

Has that happened?

Not really, at least not for residential customers. The "savings" were so meager or restrictive or hard to understand...

- **PPL should pay its property taxes**

Date: June 6, 2002

Publication: York Dispatch, The (PA)

An open letter to William Hecht, chairman, president and CEO of PPL Corp.:

I find it most disconcerting that your company prints the following pledge on educational materials you distribute to schools across the commonwealth. In spite of the pledge, you continue to avoid paying real estate taxes owed the Northeastern School District.

From the back page of a PPL program called, "Charged Up For Choice."

- **Citizens picket PPL on taxes**

Author: CHARLIE YOUNG Dispatch/Sunday News

Date: June 6, 2002

Publication: York Dispatch, The (PA)

More than 20 Northeastern School District residents and their children confronted PPL Corp. officials in Mount Wolf yesterday evening, demanding to know when the company would pay the cash-strapped district \$2.2 million in back taxes.

Rather than duck the sign-waving crowd, Brunner Island plant superintendent Greg Smith and corporate spokesman George Biechler took the heat, presenting the Allentown-based energy company's side of the property tax dispute.

- **Pay fair share, PPL**

Date: June 9, 2002

Publication: York Dispatch, The (PA)

We'll give PPL Corp. executives this much credit: At least they didn't try to duck a public confrontation.

Officials with the \$5.7 billion-a-year power company didn't cancel a dinner with school and municipal officials at the Mount Wolf VFW last week when word got out that a public demonstration would be held outside. They didn't sneak in a back door, or push through the crowd mumbling "no comment."

They stood their ground and defended their...

- **Power plants work on tax agreements**

Author: CHARLIE YOUNG Dispatch/Sunday News

Date: June 16, 2002

Publication: York Dispatch, The (PA)

While PPL Corp. and residents of the Northeastern School District are locked in court battles and public confrontations over taxation of the Brunner Island power plant, other electric utilities in York County are negotiating tax agreements without getting residents steamed.

Exelon Energy, owner of the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station in Peach Bottom Township, is contesting its \$304 million assessment, but it pays more than \$1 million a year in property taxes as part of an interim...

• **Northeastern taxes go up**

Author: JENNIFER GISH Dispatch/Sunday News

Date: June 25, 2002

Publication: York Dispatch, The (PA)

The Northeastern School District last night passed a 2002-03 budget that totals \$27.4 million and includes a 1.27-mill tax increase.

For the average homeowner in the district with a property valued at \$64,051, that means an additional \$81 in taxes, and a total tax bill of \$1,206.

The 2002-03 budget shows a 6.3 percent, or \$1.6 million, rise in spending over 2001-02. That cost increase includes \$664,864 for salary hikes, \$96,500 for rising utility bills, \$85,000 for special...

• **PPL's Brunner Island slated for tax auction**

Author: CHARLIE YOUNG Dispatch/Sunday News

Date: June 28, 2002

Publication: York Dispatch, The (PA)

While PPL Corp. has maintained it will not pay outstanding property taxes on its Brunner Island power plant until a court settles a dispute over its assessment, the York County Tax Claims Bureau may force its hand.

The bureau mailed notices last month to all county taxpayers who have not paid their 2000 property taxes, saying their properties will be auctioned at a tax upset sale Oct. 12 unless they pay up.

The Brunner Island plant would be sold for a minimum of approximately \$2.8

• **Northeastern taxpayers have PPL on defensive**

Date: June 30, 2002

Publication: York Dispatch, The (PA)

I found it interesting that PPL Corp. has sounded general quarters and set damage control in terms of the issue between them and Northeastern School District. After 21/2 years, this issue is finally catching up to them. I find it even more interesting that Mr. Biechler has such a select memory. Permit me to go on.

Until June 5th, when local citizens protested PPL at a local function, we have heard nothing from them. At that time (June 5), Mr. Biechler and Mr. Smith, plant superintendent...

- **Tenant takes PPL to court**

Author: ELIZABETH EVANS Dispatch/Sunday News

Date: July 7, 2002

Publication: York Dispatch, The (PA)

Already \$2.8 million behind in property taxes on its Brunner Island power plant, PPL Corp. is fighting a \$900,000 lawsuit filed by a fish-farm tenant at the island.

Susquehanna Aquacultures Inc. is suing the Allentown-based power company, claiming that 130,800 of its hybrid striped bass died when a plant fire in March 2001 shut down the only PPL generator supplying the farm with fresh water.

PPL spokesman George Biechler declined to comment, saying the company doesn't discuss...

- **PPL fights back in tax battle**

Author: CHARLIE YOUNG Dispatch/Sunday News

Date: July 11, 2002

Publication: York Dispatch, The (PA)

PPL Corp. is suing two county agencies and the Northeastern School District to stop the sale of its Brunner Island power plant for failure to pay nearly \$1 million in 2000 property taxes.

The Allentown-based power company isn't asking the county court for money from the defendants, just to stop the Oct. 12 tax sale.

In fact, if the suit succeeds, PPL would be compelled to finally start paying the property taxes it has owed for two years -- but based on a far lower assessment...

- **PPL's tax dispute grows more complex**

Author: CHARLIE YOUNG Dispatch/Sunday News

Date: October 18, 2002

Publication: York Dispatch, The (PA)

York County did not sell PPL Corp.'s Brunner Island power plant for back taxes as scheduled last week, and the power company's tax dispute seems to be growing ever more complicated.

Allentown-based PPL has refused to pay property taxes on the plant in the Northeastern School District for 2000 and 2001 because it claims the assessed value, originally set by the county at \$43 million, was grossly inflated.

PPL did, however, pay \$788,067 in September for its 2002 taxes.

- **Property tax issue near resolution**

Author: CHARLIE YOUNG Dispatch/Sunday News

Date: May 15, 2003

Publication: York Dispatch, The (PA)

PPL Corp. and the Northeastern School District are close to resolving their property tax dispute over the Brunner Island power plant, just days after PPL reached a settlement with a Lancaster County school district.

Allentown-based PPL and Northeastern have been locked in the Brunner Island dispute ever since Pennsylvania changed the way it taxes power plants.

The change, part of the deregulation of the electricity industry, took effect in January 2000.

Published on June 16, 2003, York Daily Record (PA)

- **ACROSS YORK COUNTY: NORTHERN YORK Budget approved**

The Northern York County School District unanimously approved its 2003-04 budget Thursday evening. The new, \$27.4 million budget will be financed with a 14.15-mill real estate tax, an increase of 0.80 mills, and an earned income tax rate of 1.25 percent.

Action: Brian Small, district superintendent, said next year, even with the \$45 million in new construction done in the last five years, residents of the district would pay the lowest millage rate in York...

- **PPL, Exelon fight tax assessments**

Author: CARYN TAMBER Dispatch/Sunday News

Date: July 20, 2003

Publication: York Dispatch, The (PA)

The tax dispute that has kept much-needed dollars from the Northeastern School District is creeping toward resolution, but the cash-strapped district continues to struggle.

Northeastern has been locked in a property tax dispute with Allentown-based PPL Corp. for years. PPL has paid very little in taxes on its Brunner Island Steam Electric Station since the state deregulated the power industry in the late 1990s.

Published on July 22, 2003, York Daily Record (PA)

OUR OPINION: Deregulation slams taxpayers Electric companies' big fight over taxes looks like nothing more than a profit ploy.

The benefit of having a big utility company nestled among a town's homes and businesses comes right down to taxes.

Big company, big value, big taxes.

But it hasn't played out that way for the Northeastern School District. Instead, the school district is saddled with a court dispute against Pennsylvania Power & Light over taxes, and, it turns out, other municipalities and school districts across the state are in the same...

- **PPL to pay taxes**

Author: CHARLIE YOUNG Dispatch/Sunday News

Date: November 25, 2003

Publication: York Dispatch, The (PA)

PPL Corp. and the Northeastern School District have signed an interim tax deal for the Brunner Island power plant, and the two parties now have a basis to negotiate a final settlement establishing how much the company will pay.

The Allentown-based energy company and the school district signed a deal in September setting the appraisal on the plant and adjacent land at \$5.4 million until the Common Pleas Court decides on a final appraisal. The deal creates a basis for PPL to pay property taxes

Published on December 2, 2003, York Daily Record (PA)

- **Northeastern schools, PPL settle tax dispute The district will receive more than \$750,000 in back taxes for a power plant.**

At Monday's Northeastern School Board meeting, board president Rebekah Gross said, "Friends, I have good news."

After several years of the school board and Pennsylvania Power & Light disputing the assessed worth of PPL's Brunner Island generating facility, the two sides agreed to settle, and the school district will get more tax money as a result.

The agreement with PPL states that the assessed value of the property, on Brunner Island in the Susquehanna River

- **Real estate tax dispute is settled**

Author: CHARLIE YOUNG Dispatch/Sunday News

Date: December 5, 2003

Publication: York Dispatch, The (PA)

Northeastern School District and PPL Corp. have agreed on a property assessment of \$15 million for the utility's Brunner Island power plant.

The agreement resolves a series of back-and-forth court suits over the value of the plant for tax purposes after the state deregulated the electricity industry in 2000 and shifted taxation of utility real estate to the local level.

PPL is expected to send a check in the amount of \$762,786 to the district for taxes owed since January 2000 through