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THE ATS DEAL

A MISSISSIPPI COMPANY HAS OFFERED TO BUY ACADIANA TREATMENT SYSTEMS, BUT THE DEAL IS GETTING A HARD LOOK BY THE PSC.

"A PROPOSED BUYOUT of the major public water and sewer system in Lafayette Parish is generating a lot of heat, and not much cool," a reporter for the Times said.

Acadiana Treatment Systems, a private company, negotiated an agreement with 21 municipalities in the parish to take over the public systems. The deal is expected to save the parish $3 million a year.

But some local officials and environmental groups are concerned that the deal could lead to a loss of public control over the water and sewer systems.

"We are concerned about the quality and cost of service," a local official said.

The agreement, if approved, would give Acadiana Treatment Systems full control over the systems, including the ability to set rates and improve services.

"We are worried that the company might cut corners to save money," another official said.

The deal is expected to be finalized in the coming weeks, but local residents are urging the Public Service Commission to carefully review the proposal before approving it.

"We want to make sure that the public interest is protected," the official said.

Blanco called an informal public hearing last week in Lafayette to discuss the proposal, and hundreds of citizens attended to express their concerns.

"We need to make sure that the company is held accountable for its actions," Blanco said.

The public hearing was well-attended, with many residents expressing concern about the proposed deal.

"We don't want to see our water and sewer systems fall into the hands of a private company," a resident said.

The hearing was a notable event in the ongoing debate over the future of Acadiana's water and sewer systems.

"We need to make sure that the public has a voice in the decision," another resident said.

The public service commission is expected to make a decision on the proposal in the coming weeks, and the outcome will be closely watched by local residents and environmental groups.

"We are looking forward to a fair and transparent process," a resident said.

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