



## Water authority again threatens to cut off service to Pittsburgh Brewing

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By Len Boselovic, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority is again threatening to shut off service to Pittsburgh Brewing unless it gets assurances the bankrupt company will pay its bills as it reorganizes.

In court papers filed yesterday, the authority said Pittsburgh Brewing has failed to pay \$20,519 for water and sewage provided since it sought bankruptcy protection Dec. 7. It was the authority's threat to terminate service over \$2.5 million in unpaid bills dating back to 1996 that spurred Pittsburgh Brewing to seek protection from creditors.

The company has refused to accept a proposal calling for a three-month security deposit and pre-set monthly payments based on the brewery's 2005 payments plans that involved regular monthly payments and a security deposit, the authority said in court papers. Pittsburgh Brewing did not respond to a revised proposal.

Authority lawyers are seeking an expedited hearing in front of U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge M. Bruce McCullough, who is overseeing Pittsburgh Brewery's bankruptcy. They want the judge to order the brewery to pay bills incurred since Dec. 7 and to prepay monthly bills in the future. If Pittsburgh Brewing doesn't comply, the authority wants permission to terminate service.

Shutting off the water could jeopardize Pittsburgh Brewing's chances of reorganizing.

Pittsburgh Brewing late yesterday said it could not comment because it had not seen the authority's latest filing.

At a hearing yesterday, Judge McCullough approved the appointment of attorneys from McGuireWoods to represent unsecured creditors of Pittsburgh Brewing. He also approved the creditors' decision to hire Pascarella & Wiker as their financial consultant.

Meanwhile, the union representing brewery workers has hired a financial consultant who has held discussions with prospective buyers.

"We'll talk to anybody. We have talked to some people," said **Michael Locker of Locker Associates.**

**Mr. Locker said** he was hired by the IUE-Communications Workers of America. Much of his New York firm's work has been in the steel industry, where it worked for clients involved with Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, AK Steel and Copperweld.

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[Back](#)

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