Abstract
Standard & Poor's Ratings Services raised its rating on Carbon County, Pa.'s taxable series 2011A and tax-exempt series 2011B general obligation (GO) bonds one notch to 'AA' from 'AA-'. At the same time, Standard & Poor's raised its rating on Carbon County Hospital Authority, Pa.'s (Gnaden Huetten Memorial Hospital and Palmerton Hospital refunding projects) series 2012 guaranteed hospital revenue bonds, supported by the county, one notch to 'AA' from 'AA-'. The outlook is stable. The upgrade reflects our view of the county's recently improved budgetary performance and greater budgetary flexibility. The county's full-faith-and-credit pledge, pursuant to two guarantee agreements between Palmerton Hospital and Gnaden Huetten Memorial Hospital, secures the bonds. According to the agreements, the county's full-faith-and-credit pledge is absolute.

Companies mentioned in this report are:
- Carbon Cnty
- Carbon Cnty Hosp Auth

Action: Outlook: Stable
Action: Upgraded

Standard and Poors RatingsXpress Credit Research provides in-depth coverage of international corporates, financial institutions, insurance companies, utilities, sovereigns and structured finance programs. RatingsXpress Credit Research lets users determine the credit rating of holdings and identify key factors underlying an issuer's creditworthiness, distinguishes the different risk exposures for new and existing deals, and provides an understanding of how their analysts interpret key regulatory, political and environmental events and their economic impact.

This product consists of a Summary Analysis: Bi-annual (at least). An abbreviated analysis containing Standard & Poor's issuer credit ratings as of the time the article was published. The analysis includes a rating rationale - the basis on which the rating was assigned - and an outlook section if the issuer is not on CreditWatch. Financial statistics are not included.
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