
From: Commercial Services WASO, NPS <commercial_services_waso@nps.gov>

Date: Wed, Sep 6, 2017 at 9:36 AM

Subject: Clarification on Disposable Water Bottle Reduction Program

To: NPS Commercial Services <commercial_services@nps.gov>

A press release was issued announcing that the NPS had rescinded the Disposable Water Bottle Reduction program. On August 21, the Commercial Services Program issued a technical bulletin outlining how to implement this change for concession operations. The technical bulletin is available on the Commercial Services external web site under the "Regulations" tab, "Operations" sort topic and also in the Policy Library on the internal Commercial Services SharePoint Site.

WASO Commercial Services has received several requests for further confirmation or clarification regarding this matter which are addressed below:

1. Can concessioners voluntarily avoid selling water in disposable plastic bottles?

Yes, as indicated in the technical bulletin, concessioners can opt to not sell disposable water bottles as an independent business decision. Concessioners must consult with the park before such action to make sure adequate hydration options are present for visitors such as reasonably priced reusable water bottles for sale and water fill stations.

2. Can concessioners provide information regarding the impact of water bottles in parks in their stores?

Yes, if concessioners opt to sell water in disposable plastic bottles so that visitors have this beverage choice, they can provide information at the cold case or check out counter that provides visitor's information on other hydration alternatives at the location. A sample sign is attached which could be modified by a concessioner for such a purpose. The concessioner should consult with the park and receive approval before posting such a sign.

For further information on this topic, contact Kurt Rausch, Branch Chief, Contract Management, NPS Commercial Services Program, at 202-513-7202 or Kurt.Rausch@nps.gov.

This message was sent to all Park, Regional, and WASO personnel working in or affiliated with NPS Commercial Services.

Kurt Repanshek
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Kurt Rausch <kurt_rausch@nps.gov>

From: Kurt Rausch <kurt_rausch@nps.gov>
Sent: Mon May 22 2017 12:28:13 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Thomas Crosson <Thomas_Crosson@nps.gov>
Jeffrey Olson <jeffrey_olson@nps.gov>, Gifford Earnest <kyle_earnest@nps.gov>, Chris Colvin <christopher_colvin@nps.gov>, Shawn Bengel <shawn_benge@nps.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, brian_borda@nps.gov
CC:
Subject: Re: Response to Media query: Water Bottles

Sorry. I was in the mountains with no connectivity. Let me know if there is anything you need from me but looks like this is probably already taken care of.

I did mention in an earlier message that it is possible for concessioners to voluntarily discontinue selling as an environmental practice or to offer this up as an "element of a better offer" which could be accepted by a park and added as a new contract requirement as a result. (In fact The concessioner at ZION was the first to do this and that was what spurred the entire effort) We will probably need to decide whether the Congressional language and our position will also mean we would not entertain these two circumstances which are beyond the NPS unilaterally requiring discontinuation.

Kurt

Kurt M. Rausch
Branch Chief, Contract Management
Commercial Services Program
National Park Service

202-513-7202 (Office)
202-604-5558 (Cell)

Sent from my iPad

On May 19, 2017, at 3:27 PM, Thomas Crosson <Thomas_Crosson@nps.gov> wrote:

Adding Kurt Rausch. I can't find Fried in the global. This is a summary of the info in the document Jeff references below. Also adding April for awareness.

I owe Kurt Repanshek a response by tonight - Saturday, at the latest.
How is this in response to Repanshek?

In response to the text of the CR that addresses the bottled water sales in national parks: we have no plans to discontinue sales of bottled water can beyond the 26 parks that are already doing so. Once a new NPS director is confirmed, the incoming director will review policy memorandum 11-001.

From: Jeffrey Olson [mailto:jeffrey_olson@nps.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 5:19 PM
To: Thomas Crosson; Gifford Earnest; Chris Colvin; Shawn Bengel
Subject: Re: Response to Media query: Water Bottles

We avoid using the word ban. We say discontinue sales of water in disposable bottles. I had a sentence or two in the doc I shared this

CC: Shawn Norton <shawn_norton@nps.gov>, "Sturniolo, Alfred" <fred_sturniolo@nps.gov>, Melissa Kuckro <melissa_kuckro@nps.gov>, Christine Powell <chris_powell@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Media query on bottled water policy

I would interpret "suspend further implementation" to mean no new parks would be approved until the new director completed the evaluation process and reported back to Congress. I have asked Grace about PPFL drafting a memo to RD suspending approvals. I am waiting to hear back.

Shawn

On Mon, May 15, 2017 at 4:45 PM, Olson, Jeffrey <jeffrey_olson@nps.gov> wrote:
Gentlemen
What's happening on this front?

Media questions

1. On page 12 of [this document](#) from the FY17 operating plan request (COW) this month, the park service has been directed to "suspend further implementation of Park Policy" from a grant to PPFL. Is the Park Service moving forward with that policy?

2. Will PPFL impact all the national parks that have stopped selling bottled water or plan to stop selling bottled water?

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"Rausch, Kurt" <kurt_rausch@nps.gov>

From: "Rausch, Kurt" <kurt_rausch@nps.gov>
Sent: Tue May 16 2017 10:41:39 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Olson, Jeffrey" <jeffrey_olson@nps.gov>, Melissa Kuckro <melissa_kuckro@nps.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Media query on bottled water policy

Hi Jeff

I am glad that Fred Sturniolo from PFMD is keeping me in the loop on disposable water bottle reduction legislative/budget developments.

It might be good to loop our program in directly as well. I suggest this because ultimately, the impact is mostly on the Commercial Services Program. A couple points related to this are presented below.

Where the policy has been implemented, concessioners have been directed through contract documents to not sell bottled water. To date, we have presumed that those parks that have existing park policy for reduction can continue to execute. If the current legislation or additional NPS administrative review changes that position, it would be better we know sooner rather than later as we would need to move to update contracts to remove any such conditions and provide further guidance to concessioners and park concession specialists.

It would also be useful to know how we should be handling concessioners who moving forward might voluntarily offer this action as a greening practice during the term of their contract or offer it as an element of a better offer. Could these future be entertained or are such actions prohibited even if being offered interdependently by our concessioners.

Thanks,

Kurt

Kurt M. Rausch
Chief, Contract Management
Commercial Services Program