



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Kenny Karst ~ PR Manager
DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.
209.372.1445 | kkarst@dncinc.com
Reservations: 801.559.4949
www.YosemitePark.com

First U.S. Fleet of All-Hybrid Buses Introduced in Yosemite National Park *Buses Are Quieter, More Fuel Efficient, and Release Fewer Emissions*

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif., April 26, 2005 – Something will be missing from millions of vacations to Yosemite National Park this summer, though most visitors probably won't notice. Thanks to the introduction of a new fleet of hybrid buses, the first in the United States to be completely dependent on hybrid electric technology, there will be up to 90 percent less pollution from exhaust emissions in Yosemite Valley.

Purchased by the National Park Service using money from a variety of sources, including a Clean Air fund and fees collected at Park entrance stations, the 18 new buses are designated for use in Yosemite's free shuttle service, which includes operations in Yosemite Valley and the Wawona area. Approximately three million visitors annually take advantage of the free shuttle, which transports riders to and from some of the most popular sightseeing spots in the Park.

"The use of hybrid buses allows for visitors' continued enjoyment of Yosemite while minimizing the impact on the environment – and that's a balance we're constantly striving to achieve as a private company operating in a national Park," said Gary Rosenfeld, transportation manager for DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, the NPS-authorized concessionaire that will oversee the operation and maintenance of the buses on a daily basis.

Compared to DNC's current fleet of late 1980's technology, the hybrid electric buses reduce particulate, hydrocarbon and carbon monoxide emissions by up to 90 percent. The smaller engine, combined with the newer technology of computer controls, will also extend the oil life of the buses, decreasing the number of oil changes needed and the amount of oil used per change.

In addition, the buses will deliver significantly better fuel economy compared to the older fleet. Other transit bus fleets with similar hybrid technology are demonstrating in-use fuel economy improvements of 20 to 55 percent.

While environmentalists may be most interested in the reduction of traditional pollutants, visitors will likely appreciate the noticeable decrease in noise pollution. Noise from accelerating and decelerating shuttle buses in Yosemite Valley will be cut by as much as 70 percent, allowing guests to enjoy more of the natural sounds associated with a national Park visit.

Hybrid Buses ~ 04/26/05

Riders will also appreciate some of the more practical features designed to enhance the shuttle bus experience, such as air ride suspension and larger windows and skylights for viewing Yosemite's magnificent sights. Interior automated message signs, a GPS system that delivers location-specific messages to riders, light-sensitive windows and a low floor entrance are other add-ons that make these buses state-of-the-art.

The new buses' propulsion system, which was provided by General Motors, uses a small diesel engine – similar in size to one found in a full size pick-up truck – to generate electricity and torque that moves the bus through its route at a steady state. This reduces revving of the engine, which improves fuel economy and decreases emissions. The engine switches to electric power when the bus starts or stops – a time when conventional diesel buses are loudest and most polluting. Finally, regenerative braking recharges the battery level of the bus.

The new fleet will replace 12 diesel-only buses – 1988 models with 1996 engines – that were leased for use in Yosemite approximately four years ago. Through the years, the current fleet has been augmented by a series of experimental buses, as well as a variety of used equipment.

Transportation services in Yosemite – including the free shuttle and a variety of guided sightseeing tours – are operated by DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, a subsidiary of Delaware North Companies and the authorized National Park Service concessionaire responsible for the majority of guest services in the Park.

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite is an ISO 14001 certified company, recognized throughout the hospitality industry as a leader in environmental stewardship. Its GreenPath environmental management program has received several government and independent agency awards, including the Department of Interior's 2003 Environmental Achievement Award for Waste Reduction, California Governor's Award for Sustainable Practices, and the Travel Industry Association of America's Odyssey Award.

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite is an affiliate of Delaware North Companies and the authorized National Park Service concessionaire responsible for lodging, dining, guest recreation, retail stores, and transportation in Yosemite National Park. For more information regarding advance lodging reservations at The Ahwahnee and activities throughout Yosemite, visit www.YosemitePark.com.

###