
The Perrier group agrees to acquire Sparkling Spring Water Co., an Illinois-based company

Greenwich, Connecticut, April 23, 2002 - The Perrier Group of America, Inc. announced today its agreement to acquire Sparkling Spring Water Co., of Vernon Hills, Illinois, a leading bottled water company in the Chicago metropolitan area. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. The closing is expected to occur on May 15, 2002.

“Sparkling Spring has been in my family for over one hundred years,” said Warner Tillman, President of the company. “This sale to The Perrier Group will continue my family’s tradition of making our customers and employees our first priority.”

Sparkling Spring operates out of six facilities in Illinois and Wisconsin and distributes bottled water in a three-state area that includes southeast Wisconsin, northeast Illinois and northwest Indiana. The company, with 250 employees, has 85 percent of its operations in products for home and office delivery and the remaining 15 percent for retail sales.

Perrier officials confirmed that all of the current employees of Sparkling Spring will be offered employment with The Perrier Group upon the close of sale. “We expect the integration of the two companies will proceed gradually throughout 2002, and we will keep our employees informed as the merger is fully implemented,” said Tom Burns, Midwest general manager for The Perrier Group.

This acquisition reinforces the U.S. bottled water leadership of The Perrier Group, which posted 2001 revenues of \$2.1 billion. The Perrier Group manufactures and distributes 15 well-known bottled water brands, such as Poland Spring, Deer Park, Ice Mountain and Aberfoyle in the U.S. and Canada.

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