



**Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**

**Rachel Carson State Office Building  
P.O. Box 8551  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8551  
August 6, 2001**

**Bureau of State Parks**

717-787-6640

Mr. Jason Robertson  
Access Director  
American Whitewater  
1430 Fenwick Lane  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

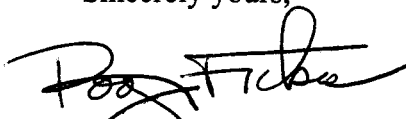
Dear Mr. Robertson:

Thank you for meeting with the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks to clarify the American Whitewater proposal concerning running the falls at Ohiopyle State Park. Based on the information which you have provided and our own operational assessment of the risks of running the falls, the Bureau would prefer to monitor the falls running for several more years as a special event where adequate safety measures can be implemented before we make a final decision regarding the "regular" running of Ohiopyle Falls.

Reasonably safe running of Ohiopyle Falls is very dependant on the self-rescue ability of the boaters involved, and in its absence, on the provision of safety boaters. The Bureau feels that launching at the take-out on the Middle-Yough and then boating downstream to the falls will add to the confusion and congestion at the take-out and places boats on the segment of river downstream of the take-out. Middle-Yough boaters upon seeing other boaters proceeding past the take-out may unwittingly make a decision to also go beyond the take-out, with possibly disastrous results. There is no control over boater experience or ability, persons who are, at best, intermediate paddlers may be tempted to boat the falls. With or without adequate safety personnel on hand, this may eventually result in a tragedy, but the risk is significantly higher without safety personnel on site.

Once again I would like to thank you for working with the Bureau of State Parks on this proposal and we greatly appreciate your time and efforts in helping understand this complex issue. If we can be of assistance to you at any time, please feel free to contact Gary Smith, Chief, Park Operations and Maintenance Division at 717-783-3303 or Doug Hoehn, Park Manager, Ohiopyle State Park at 724-329-8591.

Sincerely yours,



Roger Fickes  
Director

**Stewardship**

**Partnership**

**Service**