



ACA | Canoe - Kayak - SUP - Raft - Rescue
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February 23, 2021

Ameren Missouri Labadie Energy Center
Bowles Township, MO 63055

The American Canoe Association (ACA) is excited to hear about the possibility of another paddlesports venue in the United States. We understand that Ameren is making significant investments to move toward a net-zero carbon emissions goal by 2050, and that within the scope of those investments and necessary environmental upgrades, there may be an opportunity for the development of a whitewater park at the Labadie Plant. We understand the project is in the early stages, but are very excited about the possibility of having another Olympic Standard whitewater park in the U.S. that could host major national and international events, in addition to broadening the scope of healthy outdoor recreation opportunities for people in Missouri.

The ACA is the National Governing Body (NGB) for the Olympic paddlesports of Canoe Slalom and Canoe Sprint and the Paralympic Sport of Paracanoe in the United States. In addition to the Olympic disciplines, we select and field National Teams in all other paddlesports governed by the International Canoe Federation (ICF), including Kayak Polo and Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP). The ACA is the oldest and largest paddlesports organization in the U.S. We serve the broader paddling public by providing education related to all aspects of paddling, including safety education and instructor certification, stewardship support to promote water conservation, and sanctioning hundreds of events every year to promote competition, exploration, and recreation.

We would love to partner with you to illustrate how additional whitewater parks in the United States support our mission and the growth of paddlesports. The Labadie site could one day host National Championships and Olympic Selection events, and through partnership with the ACA, the development of local paddlesport training and racing programs that would nurture the development of local athletes. In addition to competitive events, whitewater parks serve the broader paddling public by furthering paddling access and can boost local communities through related social and economic activity.

We look forward to exploring opportunities to work together and to be a part of any future design and developments related to your facility in these regards.

Sincerely,
Brett Mayer
Policy and Stewardship Director
American Canoe Association (ACA)
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