



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

November 5, 2019

OVERNIGHT EXPRESS MAIL

Ms. Kara B. Fornstrom
Chairman
Wyoming Public Service Commission
2515 Warren Avenue
Suite 300
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Chairman Fornstrom:

On September 25, 2019, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of Wyoming's enforcement of its excavation damage prevention law. PHMSA conducted this evaluation pursuant to 49 United States Code § 60114 and 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 198, Subpart D—State Damage Prevention Enforcement Programs. Based on this evaluation, PHMSA has determined that the enforcement of Wyoming's excavation damage prevention law is "adequate." PHMSA appreciates the State of Wyoming's efforts in passing legislation in 2018 that addressed the previously noted issues with the state's damage prevention enforcement program.

During the evaluation, PHMSA also discussed your July 26, 2019, letter to PHMSA, in which you ask for clarification regarding Wyoming's score for Criterion 3 of the 2018 evaluation. PHMSA provided additional details to the meeting attendees regarding the scoring, and it is our understanding that the explanation satisfactorily addressed the questions raised in your letter.

As you may be aware, excavation damage continues to be a leading cause of pipeline failures, some of which have resulted in fatalities, serious injuries, and environmental damage. Nationwide statistics show that effective enforcement of state damage prevention laws reduces excavation damage and pipeline incidents, resulting in enhanced public safety.

Chairman Kara B. Fornstrom

Page 2

In closing, PHMSA appreciates your dedication to safety and encourages the Wyoming Public Service Commission and the Wyoming damage prevention stakeholder community to continue to support damage prevention outreach initiatives. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Dr. Christie Murray, our Director of Outreach and Engagement, at (202) 366-4996 or by email at Christie.Murray@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Massoud Tahamtani', enclosed within a large, thin, hand-drawn oval.

Massoud Tahamtani
Deputy Associate Administrator, Policy and Programs
Office of Pipeline Safety

cc: Mr. Karl Anderson, Supervising Attorney General,
Wyoming Attorney General
Ms. Jan M. Warren, Executive Director,
One Call of Wyoming