U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

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

NOV 27 2019

Overnight Express Mail

Mr. Philip L. Bartlett II
Chairman
Maine Public Utilities Commission
18 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Chairman Bartlett:

On October 17, 2019, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of Maine'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 Maine's excavation damage prevention law is "adequate."

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.

In closing, PHMSA appreciates your dedication to safety and encourages the Maine Public Utilities Commission 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,

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

cc: Mr. Derek D. Davidson, Director,
Consumer Assistance and Safety Division,
Maine Public Utilities Commission