



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

The Honorable Sean D. Reyes  
Attorney General of Utah  
Utah State Capitol Complex  
350 North State Street, Suite 230  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2320

Dear Attorney General Reyes:

On November 6, 2019, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of Utah'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 Utah'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 Utah Division of Public Utilities to continue to support several 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](mailto:Christie.Murray@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

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

cc: Mr. Al Zadeh, Pipeline Safety Lead Engineer,  
Utah Department of Commerce, Division of Public Utilities