



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

October 14, 2020

Via Email

Commissioner Chuck Eaton  
Chairman  
Georgia Public Service Commission  
244 Washington Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Chairman Eaton:

On September 15, 2020, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of the Georgia Public Service Commission's enforcement of the Georgia State excavation damage prevention law. PHMSA conducted this evaluation pursuant to 49 United States Code (USC) § 60114 and 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 198, Subpart D—State Damage Prevention Enforcement Programs. Based on this evaluation, PHMSA has determined that the enforcement of the Georgia excavation damage prevention law is "adequate."

PHMSA appreciates your dedication to safety. As you are 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.

Should you or your staff have any questions regarding this letter, please contact David Appelbaum, PHMSA State Evaluator, at (202) 617-6329 or by email at [David.Appelbaum@dot.gov](mailto:David.Appelbaum@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Massoud Tahamtani", with a long, sweeping underline.

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

cc: Michelle L. Thebert, Director, Facilities Protection Unit  
Georgia Public Service Commission