



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

April 6, 2021

Via Email

Ms. Carrie Zalewski  
Chairman  
Illinois Commerce Commission  
160 N. LaSalle Street, Suite C-800  
Chicago, IL 60601

Ms. Gia Biagi  
Commissioner  
Chicago Department of Transportation  
2 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Chairman Zalewski and Commissioner Biagi:

On October 26, 2020, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of the Illinois Commerce Commission and the City of Chicago’s enforcement of the Illinois 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 Illinois excavation damage prevention law is “adequate.”

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.

Ms. Carrie Zalewski

Page 2

Should you or your staff have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Annmarie Robertson, PHMSA Senior Program Manager, at (317) 964-1670 or by email at [annmarie.robertson@dot.gov](mailto:annmarie.robertson@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and curves, positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

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