



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

**1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590**

March 22, 2021

Via Email

Mr. Todd Younkin
Division Administrator
Business Standards Division
Montana Department of Labor & Industry
P.O. Box 200517
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Mr. Younkin:

On October 1, 2020, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of the Montana Department of Labor & Industry's enforcement of the Montana 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 Montana 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 Steven Fischer, PHMSA Senior Program Manager, at (713) 548-4838 or by email at Steven.Fischer@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: Joel Tierney, Pipeline Safety Program Manager
Montana Public Service Commission