



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 27, 2020

Via Email

Ms. Theresa Becenti-Aguilar
District 4 Commissioner/Chair
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
1120 Paseo De Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Chair Becenti-Aguilar:

On August 21, 2020, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission's enforcement of the New Mexico State 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 the New Mexico 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 Mr. David Appelbaum, PHMSA State Evaluator, at (202) 617-6329 or by email at David.Appelbaum@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Massoud Tahamtani', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

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

cc: Mr. Jason Montoya, Chief of Staff, Pipeline Safety Bureau Chief
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission