



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

May 27, 2020

Via E-mail

Ms. Stephanie Mullen  
Executive Director  
Public Utilities Commission of Nevada  
1150 East William Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Executive Director Mullen:

On May 11, 2020, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of Nevada'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 Nevada'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 Public Utilities Commission of Nevada to continue to support damage prevention outreach initiatives. Should you 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: Mr. Neil Pascual,  
Senior Pipeline Safety Engineer (Program Manager),  
Public Utilities Commission of Nevada