



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 21, 2020

Via Email

Ms. Alice Velázquez, Esq.
Executive Director
Department of Transportation and Public Works
Centro Gubernamental Roberto Sánchez Vilella, Torre Sur
P.O. 41269
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00940-1269

Dear Executive Director Velázquez:

On August 12, 2020, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of the Puerto Rico's Department of Transportation and Public Works' enforcement of the Puerto Rico 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 Puerto Rico 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 long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the signature.

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