



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

Honorable Mark C. Christie
Chairman
Virginia State Corporation Commission
PO Box 1197
1300 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23218-1197

Dear Chairman Christie:

On May 13, 2020, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of Virginia'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 Virginia's excavation damage prevention law is "adequate."

As I am sure you are aware, excavation damage continues to be one of the leading causes of pipeline failures, a number of which 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 pipeline 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.

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

cc: Scott Marshall,
URS Pipeline Safety Program Manager,
Virginia State Corporation Commission