



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

September 27, 2023

Via E-mail

Mr. Mahesh Albuquerque, Director
Colorado Division of Oil and Public Safety
633 17th Street, Suite 500
Denver, CO 80202-3610

Dear Mr. Albuquerque:

On September 26, 2023, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of the Colorado Division of Oil and Public Safety's and the City of Colorado Springs' enforcement of the Colorado 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 Colorado's excavation damage prevention law is "adequate."

PHMSA appreciates your dedication to pipeline safety. As you are aware, excavation damage continues to be a leading cause of pipeline failures, some of which result 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, reading "Zach Barrett", is positioned below the "Sincerely," text. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Zach Barrett
Director, State Programs

cc: Somer Mese, Chief Operations Officer, Colorado Springs Utilities
Claudia Randall, Executive Director, Colorado 811
Casey Hensley, Program Manager, Colorado Public Utility Commission