



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

October 30, 2023

Via Email

Mrs. Linda George
Administrator
Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers
89 Jefferson Blvd.
Warwick, RI 02888

Dear Administrator George:

On October 30, 2023, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers enforcement of the Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island'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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Zach Barrett
Director, State Programs

cc: Mr. Robert Bailey, Program Manager, Mr. Anthony Manni,
Deputy Administrator, Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers