



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

July 31, 2023

Via Email

Ms. Christi Craddick  
Chairman/Railroad Commissioner  
Railroad Commission of Texas  
PO Box 12967  
Austin, TX 78711-2967

Dear Chairman Craddick:

On July 31, 2023, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of the Railroad Commission of Texas' enforcement of the Texas State excavation damage prevention law. PHMSA conducted this evaluation pursuant to 49 United States Code § 60114 and 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 198, Subpart D -- State Damage Prevention Enforcement Programs. Based on this evaluation, PHMSA has determined that the enforcement of the Texas 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 Division

cc: Ms. Stephanie Weidman, Pipeline Safety Director, Railroad Commission of Texas