



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

October 31, 2023

Via Email

Ms. June E. Tierney Commissioner
Vermont Department of Public Service 112
State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Dear Commissioner Tierney:

On October 31, 2023, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of Vermont'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 Vermont'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 above the printed name and title.

Zach Barrett
Director, State Programs

cc: Mr. William B. Jordan, Director of Engineering, Vermont Department of Public Service