



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

November 4, 2025

Via Email

Ms. Katherine Collier  
Executive Director  
Mississippi Public Service Commission  
PO Box 1174  
Jackson, MS 39215-1174

Dear Executive Director Collier:

On November 4, 2025, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of the enforcement by the Mississippi Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Board of the Mississippi excavation damage prevention law. PHMSA conducted this evaluation pursuant to 49 United States Code (USC) § 60114 and 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 198, Subpart D—State Damage Prevention Enforcement Programs. Based on this evaluation, PHMSA determined that enforcement of the Mississippi excavation damage prevention law is “adequate.”<sup>1</sup>

As a reminder, PHMSA requests that each State continue to review its laws, definitions of “excavation,” and relevant best practices to determine whether onshore submerged facilities, dredging, and other related maritime or underwater excavation activities are included. This request is based on recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) after a 16-inch liquid propane pipeline was damaged by a dredging vessel on August 21, 2020.<sup>2</sup> Please ensure that your State has the legal authority and procedures in place to preserve public safety during dredging operations and other related maritime or underwater excavation activities. PHMSA appreciates your dedication to pipeline safety. As you are aware, excavation damage remains 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, thereby enhancing public 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

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<sup>1</sup> PHMSA will only deem a state as either “adequate” or “inadequate.”

<sup>2</sup> See NTSB Report MAR21/05 dated December 7, 2021, *Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Strike and Subsequent Explosion and Fire aboard Dredging Vessel Waymon Boyd*

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pipeline incidents, resulting in enhanced public safety. Should you or your staff have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. David Appelbaum, PHMSA Senior Transportation Specialist, 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 large initial "Z" and a long, sweeping underline.

Zach Barrett  
Director, State Programs

cc: Kaleb Gibson, Director, Pipeline Safety Division, Mississippi Public Service  
Commission  
Roger Cox, Enforcement Board, Executive Director, Aligning Change to Succeed