



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

June 10, 2019

**OVERNIGHT EXPRESS MAIL**

Ms. Judith Jagdmann  
Chairperson  
Virginia State Corporation Commission  
Tyler Building  
1300 E. Main St.  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Chairperson Jagdmann:

On November 20, 2018, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of Virginia'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 Virginia's excavation damage prevention law is "adequate." PHMSA appreciates the Commonwealth of Virginia's success in developing and sustaining an effective damage prevention enforcement program.

As you may be aware, excavation damage continues to be a leading cause of pipeline failures, a number of which have resulted 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.

In closing, PHMSA appreciates your dedication to safety and encourages the Virginia State Corporation Commission to continue to support damage prevention outreach initiatives. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Dr. Christie Murray, our Director of Outreach and Engagement, at (202) 366-4996 or by email at [Christie.Murray@dot.gov](mailto:Christie.Murray@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

Alan K. Mayberry  
Associate Administrator, Office of Pipeline Safety

cc: Mr. Steven Bradley, Director of Utility and Railroad Safety,  
Virginia State Corporation Commission