U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

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

November 5, 2019

Via email

Mr. Jacob Larson
Assistant Attorney General
Iowa Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General of Iowa
Environmental Law Division
1305 E. Walnut St.
Des Moines, IA 50139

Dear Mr. Larson:

On August 1, 2019, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of Iowa'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 Iowa's excavation damage prevention law is "adequate."

As you may be aware, excavation damage continues to be a leading cause of pipeline failures, some 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 Iowa Utilities Board and the Iowa damage prevention stakeholder community 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.

Sincerely,

Massoud Tahamtani
Deputy Associate Administrator, Policy and Programs
Office of Pipeline Safety

cc: Mr. Magid Yousif, Interim Manager,
Safety and Engineering, Iowa Utilities Board