



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

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

**DEC 31 2019**

Overnight Express Mail

Ms. Charlotte A. Mitchell  
Chair  
North Carolina Utilities Commission  
430 North Salisbury Street  
Dobbs Building, 5th Floor  
Raleigh, NC 27603-5918

Dear Chair Mitchell:

On December 2, 2019, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of North Carolina'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 North Carolina'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 excavation damage prevention stakeholders in North Carolina to continue to support damage prevention outreach initiatives that promote 811 and safe digging practices. 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,

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

cc: Mr. Louis Panzer, Executive Director,  
North Carolina 811