



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

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

**JAN 07 2020**

Overnight Express Mail

Ms. Gladys M. Brown-Dutrieuille  
Chairman  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Brown-Dutrieuille:

On November 26, 2019, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of Pennsylvania'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 Pennsylvania'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 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to continue to support damage prevention outreach initiatives that promotes 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. Bryan Smolock, Director Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry  
Mr. Bill Kiger, President & Chief Executive Officer, Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc