



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration

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

JUN 20 2019

**OVERNIGHT EXPRESS MAIL**

Mr. James A. Barron  
Executive Director  
Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority  
7223 Parkway Drive, Suite 100  
Hanover, MD 21076

Dear Mr. Barron:

On December 17, 2018, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of Maryland'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 Maryland's excavation damage prevention law is "adequate." PHMSA appreciates the State of Maryland'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 Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority 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,

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

cc: Mr. John Clementson, Assistant Chief Engineer, Maryland Public Service Commission