



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

October 20, 2021

Via Email

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

Dear Mr. Barron:

On August 12, 2021, a representative of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of the Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority's (MDDPA) enforcement of the Maryland State excavation damage prevention law. PHMSA conducted this evaluation pursuant to 49 United States Code (USC) § 60114 and 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 198, Subpart D - State Damage Prevention Enforcement Programs. Based on this evaluation, PHMSA has determined that the enforcement of the Maryland excavation damage prevention law is "adequate."

PHMSA appreciates your dedication to safety. As you are 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.

Should you or your staff have any questions regarding this letter, please contact David Appelbaum, PHMSA State Evaluator, at (202) 617-6329 or by email at [David.Appelbaum@dot.gov](mailto:David.Appelbaum@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Zach Barrett".

Zach Barrett  
Director, State Programs

cc: Mr. John Clementson, Assistant Chief Engineer, Maryland Public Service Commission  
Ms. Susan A. M. Stroud, Deputy Director, MDDPA