



U.S. Department  
Of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials  
Safety Administration**

June 27, 2014

**OVERNIGHT EXPRESS MAIL**

David Lykken  
Pipeline Safety Program Manager  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive, SW  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98502

Dear Mr. Lykken:

Sections 60105(e) and 60106(d) of the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 (Act) provide for the monitoring of State pipeline safety programs by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). This annual monitoring is to ensure compliance with the Act's requirements for State pipeline safety programs and provides information for determining the State's total point award for the PHMSA pipeline safety grant for next year.

June 2-5, 2014, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) CY2013 Pipeline Safety Program activities, training, and other relative information were evaluated by Mr. Rex Evans and Mr. Michael Thompson, PHMSA Office of State Programs. As part of the evaluation, the annual Progress Report documents submitted to PHMSA were validated for accuracy. Additionally, our State Evaluators observed an on-site field inspection of both Swissport and Puget Sound Energy. Thank you for the courtesies extended to Mr. Evans and Mr. Thompson by your staff during the evaluation.

I would like to express PHMSA's appreciation for your valuable service as the National Secretary of the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR) board and the various other committees you serve on. As always, your input is very important and appreciated in these efforts in promoting and progressing pipeline safety.

Based on our evaluation the WUTC is generally complying with the requirements for State pipeline safety programs. Our exit briefing discussed the program evaluation and results were

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included in my letter to Chairman Danner. You were copied on the Chairman's letter which did not request a response on the item where points were deducted on the program evaluation; however, please take action to amend the Progress Report to address the missing natural gas incident report for Attachment 4 mentioned in the Chairman's letter. Ms. Carrie Winslow of my staff can assist you with amending the report.

The grant funding is based on accurate completion of the annual Progress Report and the State performance score from this evaluation. Attention to these two important items will help to assure your eligibility for maximum grant funding. Thank you again for your courtesies and assistance in making available your time, staff, documents and other relative information during this annual State program evaluation. I appreciate your continuing commitment to the pipeline safety program.

Sincerely,



Zach Barrett  
Director for State Programs  
Office of Pipeline Safety

cc: Rex Evans, State Programs Evaluator, PHMSA, PHP-50  
Chris Hoidal, Director, Western Region, PHMSA, PHP-500