



U.S. Department
Of Transportation

Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration

1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

October 21, 2016

OVERNIGHT EXPRESS MAIL

Mr. Alan Rathbun
Pipeline Safety Director
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive, SW
Olympia, WA 98502

RECEIVED

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State of Washington
UTC
Pipeline Safety Program

Dear Mr. Rathbun:

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.

During the weeks of May 16-20, September 12-16 and September 26-30, 2016, representatives of PHMSA's Office of State Programs evaluated the CY 2015 Pipeline Safety Program activities conducted by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC). The evaluation encompassed the validation of annual Progress Report documents submitted to PHMSA, review of the pipeline program procedures and records, and the observation of on-site inspections of two pipeline operators conducted by your staff. Thank you for the courtesies extended to Mr. Michael Thompson and Mr. David Appelbaum, PHMSA State Programs, by your staff.

Thank you for supporting NAPSRR and its initiatives. PHMSA especially appreciates your past service in NAPSRR leadership positions and on NAPSRR Committees along with those of your staff noted in my letter to Chairman Danner.

Based on our evaluation, the WUTC is generally complying with the requirements for State pipeline safety programs. Our exit briefing discussed the items for improving the pipeline safety program which are included in my letter to Chairman Danner. You were copied on the

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Chairman's letter which does not require a response to PHMSA. If Chairman Danner chooses to respond, please send me and Mr. Don Martin a PDF of the Chairman's signed response letter to zach.barrett@dot.gov and don.martin@dot.gov.

The grant funding is based on accurate completion of the annual Progress Report and the State performance score from this evaluation. Attention to this item 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Zach Barrett", with a long, sweeping underline.

Zach Barrett
Director for State Programs
Office of Pipeline Safety

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