



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

August 25, 2021

Via Email

Mr. David W. Danner  
Chairman  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
621 Woodland Square Loop SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Chairman Danner:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of the pipeline safety program activities carried out by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) in Calendar Year (CY) 2020. This evaluation included a review via email exchange of annual Progress Report documents and pipeline program procedures and records. Observation of pipeline operator inspections by WUTC staff were conducted on June 23, and August 18, 2021.

PHMSA conducted our evaluation pursuant to Sections 60105(e) and 60106(d) of Title 49 of the United States Code, which authorizes PHMSA to monitor state pipeline safety programs. This annual evaluation is designed to ensure compliance with the Pipeline Safety Act requirements and to provide information that will allow PHMSA to determine the state's total pipeline safety grant score for the upcoming year.

PHMSA assesses the overall performance of a state's pipeline safety program by scoring information contained in the pipeline safety program Progress Report and by conducting a Program Evaluation. Detailed results are below:

**I. Progress Report Review**

For CY 2020, the WUTC Gas Pipeline Safety Program scored 50 out of a possible 50 points. The WUTC Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Program scored 50 out of a possible 50 points.

## II. Program Evaluation Review

For CY 2020, the WUTC Gas Safety program scored 100 out of a possible 100 points and WUTC Hazardous Liquid Safety programs scored 96 out of a possible 96 points.

As you may be aware, PHMSA and the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives developed a set of performance metrics that are available to the public on PHMSA's stakeholder communication website, <http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/states.htm>. These metrics relate to the State's leak management, incident investigations, and damage prevention program, as well as its inspector qualification, inspection, and enforcement activities. PHMSA expects each State pipeline safety program to review these metrics and act, as necessary, to continuously improve performance trends, thereby supporting enhanced pipeline safety.

I appreciate your continuing commitment to the pipeline safety program. Thank you for your continued support of pipeline safety.

Sincerely,



Zach Barrett  
Director, State Programs

cc: Mr. Sean Mayo, Director of Pipeline Safety, WA-UTC  
Mr. Dustin Hubbard, Director, Western Region, PHMSA, PHP-500  
Mr. David Lykken, State Evaluator, PHMSA, PHP-50