



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

September 14, 2023

Via Email

Monique M. Edwards  
Commissioner of Conservation  
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
PO BOX 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

Dear Commissioner Edwards:

On July 10-14, 2023, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) conducted an evaluation of the Underground Natural Gas Storage (UNGS) program activities carried out by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) in Calendar Year (CY) 2022. This evaluation included a review of annual Progress Report documents and UNGS program procedures and records, as well as observation of an on-site UNGS operator inspection by LDNR staff.

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 UNGS 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 UNGS grant score for the upcoming year.

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

**Progress Report Review**

For CY 2022, the LDNR UNGS Program scored 50 out of a possible 50 points.

**Program Evaluation Review**

For CY 2022, the LDNR UNGS Program scored 94 out of a possible 94 points.

Thank you for your contributions and continuing support of the UNGS safety program. A response to this letter is not necessary; however, your comments are always welcome and my address is 3700 South MacArthur Blvd, Suite B, Oklahoma City, OK 73179-7612. Thank you for your continued support of pipeline safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Zach Barrett", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Zach Barrett  
Director, State Programs

CC: Mr. Steven Giambrone, Director Pipeline Division, LDNR  
Mr. Robert Burroughs, PHMSA Eastern Region Director (PHP-100)  
Mr. Patrick Gaume, State UNGS Liaison, PHMSA State Programs (PHP-50)