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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL to: ExecutiveSecretariat@ntsb.gov and marcusj@ntsb.gov

February 12, 2020

Robert L. Sumwalt III, Chairman
National Transportation Safety Board
490 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20594

Re: P-19-16

Dear Mr. Sumwalt:

The State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers has been asked to address the safety recommendations the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) made in its report dated September 24, 2019: *Overpressurization of Natural Gas Distribution System, Explosions, and Fires in Merrimack Valley, Massachusetts, September 13, 2018*, NTSB/PAR-19/02.

As a result of its investigation, the NTSB determined that 31 states, including Maine, permitted exemptions to the requirement for professional engineer approval and stamping of natural gas infrastructure projects. NTSB recommended that each state "Remove the exemption so that all future natural gas infrastructure projects require licensed professional engineer approval and stamping. (P-19-16)"

The State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers has reviewed its statute and believes that natural gas infrastructure would fall under the existing statutory definition of professional engineering and that none of the existing statutory exemptions would apply.

However, the Board recognizes that to eliminate confusion and to ensure that all future natural gas infrastructure projects are designed, stamped and overseen by a professional engineer it may be necessary to add clarifying language to the statute. The Board will review the existing statute and introduce legislation for the 2021 Legislative session as needed. In the near term, an effort will be made to contact natural gas companies operating in the State and advise them that their projects require the oversight of a licensed professional engineer.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


David Jackson
Executive Director