



1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

US Department
Of Transportation

Federal Railroad
Administration

Mr. Stephen Reaves
System General Road Foreman
Amtrak
1 High-Speed Way
Wilmington, DE 19801

December 22, 2020

Dear Mr. Reaves:

This letter responds to the National Passenger Railroad Corporation Amtrak (ATK) submission dated November 20, 2020, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the Amtrak Engineer Certification Program received by FRA on September 28, 2020. FRA's procedures for submission and approval of programs is described in appendix B to 49 CFR part 240.

Your submission states that on September 29, 2020, the railroad provided a copy of its program modification to Mr. Dennis Pierce, President of BLE. FRA received no comments on the program or program modification by the labor organizations.

FRA reviewed the railroad's program modification and determined that the railroad's program modification conforms with the requirements of 49 CFR part 240 for the reasons discussed below.

The program modifications are consistent with the model of the previously approved railroad programs. FRA understands that the modifications are intended to provide more detail to the engineer certification process and update contact information. Additional modifications to the submission also addressed deficiencies with the standard requirements of 49 CFR part 240, appendix B. The improvements enhance qualifications for DLSE's. The minimum duration of annual monitoring rides is clearly defined. The number of hours for annual rules training was established. The submission stated how new technology, new operating rules, or other significant operational changes are introduced to the previously trained engineers.

Please contact me with any questions regarding this submission at (202) 393-0978 or FRAOPCERTPROG@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Christian Holt
Operating Practices Staff Director