



1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

US Department  
Of Transportation

Federal Railroad  
Administration

Mr. Mitch Harris  
Rio Grande Pacific Corporation  
Director Safety, Training & Regulatory Compliance  
119 N. Commercial Ave.  
Emmett, ID 83617

March 10, 2021

Dear Mr. Harris:

This letter responds to the Rio Grande Pacific Corporation submission dated March 10, 2021, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). Rio Grande Pacific Corporation seeks approval of its material modifications to the Engineer Certification Program received by FRA on January 25, 2021. FRA's procedures for submission and approval of programs are described in Appendix B to 49 CFR part 240.

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.

Your submission states that on January 25, 2021, the railroad provided a copy of its program modification to Mr. Keith Fury, General Chairman New Orleans Gulf Coast, and Mr. Jeremy Ferguson, President of SMART-TD labor organization representing the railroad's employees. FRA received no comments on the program or program modification by the labor organizations.

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 updated 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. Standards have been set with regards to re-qualifying over a specific territory. The minimum duration of annual monitoring rides is clearly defined. Detailed training standards have been established in Section five of your engineer training program.

Please continue in your efforts to improve railroad safety on your system.

Please contact me with any questions regarding this submission at (202) 366-0978 or [FRAOPCERTPROG@dot.gov](mailto:FRAOPCERTPROG@dot.gov) or [Kevin.Lewis@dot.gov](mailto:Kevin.Lewis@dot.gov)

Sincerely,

Kevin Lewis  
FRA Program Manager – Certification

pp Christian Holt  
Operating Practices Staff Director