



1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

US Department  
Of Transportation

Federal Railroad  
Administration

Mr. Mike Mattson  
Montana Rail Link  
Director of Training, Rules, and Safety  
101 International Drive  
Missoula, MT 59808

April 22, 2021

Dear Mr. Mattson

This letter responds to the Montana Rail Link Railroad submission dated March 1, 2021, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the Engineer Certification Program received by FRA on March 1, 2021. (MLR) has complied with FRA's procedures for submission and approval of programs 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 March 10, 2021, the railroad provided a copy of its program modification to Mr. Dennis Pierce, President of BLE, the 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. 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