



1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

U.S. 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 28, 2021

Dear Mr. Mattson:

This letter is in response to the Montana Rail Link (MRL) submission dated April 16, 2021, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the MRL Conductor Certification Program received by FRA on April 16, 2021. MRL has complied with FRA's procedures for submission and approval of programs as described in 49 CFR part 242, appendix B. FRA reviewed the railroad's program modifications and determined that the railroad's program modifications conform with the requirements of 49 CFR part 242 for the reasons discussed below.

Your submission states that on April 16, 2021, the railroad provided a copy of its program modification to Mr. Dennis Pierce, President of BLET, the labor organization representing the railroad's employees. FRA received no comments on the program or program modifications by the labor organizations.

The program modifications are consistent with the model of the previously approved Class II railroad programs. FRA understands that the modifications are intended to provide more detail to the conductor certification process and update contact information. Additional modifications to the submission also addressed any deficiencies with the standard requirements of 49 CFR part 242, appendix B.

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 or Kevin.Lewis@dot.gov

Sincerely,

Kevin Lewis
FRA Program Manager Certification

pp Christian Holt
Operating Practices Staff Director