1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

March 18, 2022



U.S. Department Of Transportation

Federal Railroad Administration

Mr. Rich McCullough Manager Railroad and MEU Services Cleveland Cliffs – Weirton West 100 Pennsylvania Ave Weirton, WV 26062

Dear Mr. McCullough:

This letter responds to the Cleveland Cliffs-Weirton West (CCIX) submission dated March 2, 2022, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the CCIX Conductor Certification Program received by FRA on February 17, 2022. CCIX has complied with FRA's procedures for submission and approval of programs is described in appendix B to 49 CFR part 242. FRA

Your submission package states that no labor organizations are representing the railroad's employees.

reviewed the railroad's program modification and determined that the railroad's program modification

The program modifications are consistent with the model of the previously approved Class III 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 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

conforms with the requirements of 49 CFR part 242 for the reasons discussed below.

Sincerely,

Kevin Lewis FRA Program Manager Certification

pp Christian Holt Operating Practices Staff Director