



1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

US Department
Of Transportation

Federal Railroad
Administration

Brad Walker
Watco Companies, LLC
VP- Safety
1128 S. Mill Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66105

September 29, 2022

Dear Mr. Walker:

This letter is in response to the Watco Companies, LLC on August 11, 2022, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the Engineer Certification Program received by FRA on August 11, 2022. Watco Companies, LLC has complied with FRA's procedures for submission and approval of programs as 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 August 15, 2022, the railroad provided a copy of its program modification to Mr. Rick Lee, SMART, labor organization representing the railroad's employees. FRA received no comments on the program or program modification by the labor organization.

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 or Kevin.Lewis@dot.gov

Sincerely,

Kevin Lewis
FRA Program Manager – Certification

pp Christian Holt
Operating Practices Staff Director