



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Billy Duttine
Palmetto Railways
Director of Safety & Operating Practices
1940 Algonquin Rd, STE 425
Charleston, SC 29405

August 7, 2024

Dear Mr. Duttine:

This letter responds to the Palmetto Railways Engineer submission dated June 25, 2024, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the Palmetto Railways Conductor Certification Program received by FRA on June 25, 2024. Palmetto Railways has complied with FRA's procedures for submitting and approving programs described in appendix B to 49 CFR part 242. FRA reviewed the railroad's program modification and determined that the railroad's program modification conforms with the requirements of 49 CFR part 242 for the reasons discussed below.

Your submission states that on June 25, 2024, the railroad provided a copy of its program modification to Mr. Jeremy Ferguson, President of the SMART-TD labor organization, which represents the railroad's employees. FRA received no comments on the program or program modification from the labor organizations.

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 details about 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. Standards have been set regarding re-qualifying over a specific territory. Detailed training standards have been established in Section Four of your conductor training program.

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

Please contact us with any questions regarding this submission at (443) 257-8218, FRAOPCERTPROG@dot.gov, Kevin.Lewis@dot.gov, or Kurt.Erickson@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Kurt Erickson
FRA Rail Safety Specialist – Certification

pp Christian Holt
Operating Practices Staff Director