



1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

US Department
Of Transportation

Federal Railroad
Administration

Jeremy Edwards
Port Terminal Railroad Association
Director, Safety & Training
8934 Manchester Street
Houston, TX 77012

December 23, 2024

Dear Mr. Edwards:

This letter responds to the Port Terminal Railroad Association (PTRA) submission dated November 4, 2024, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the PTRA Engineer Certification Program received by FRA on November 4, 2024. PTRA has complied with FRA's procedures for submitting and approving programs as described in Appendix B to 49 CFR part 240. FRA reviewed the railroad's program modifications and determined that the railroad's program modifications conform with the requirements of 49 CFR part 240 for the reasons discussed below.

Your submission states that on November 4, 2024, the railroad provided a copy of its program modification to Mr. Rick Robinette and Mr. Chris Alston, the General Chairpersons 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 railroad programs. FRA understands that the modifications will provide more details about 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 DLSEs. Standards have been set concerning re-qualifying over a specific territory. Section Five of your engineer training program has established detailed training standards.

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

Please contact us with any questions regarding this submission at (202) 366-0978 or FRAOPCERTPROG@dot.gov or Kevin.Lewis@dot.gov or Kurt.Erickson@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Kurt Erickson
FRA Rail Safety Specialist – Certification

pp Christian Holt
Operating Practices Staff Director