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US Department
Of Transportation

Federal Railroad
Administration

Brad Walker
Watco Companies LLC
Program Administrator
8000 W 110th St.
Overland Park, KS 66210
bwalker@watco.com

January 26, 2026

Mr. Walker:

This letter responds to WATCO Companies LLC's submissions dated January 15, 2026, requesting approval of its Locomotive Engineer Certification Program under 49 CFR Part 240 and its Conductor Certification Program under 49 CFR Part 242. FRA received both submissions on January 26, 2026.

FRA has reviewed the submitted programs and determined that they comply with the requirements of Parts 240 and 242, as set forth in Appendix B to the applicable regulations. FRA has accepted these non-material modifications to WATCO's Locomotive Engineer and Conductor Certification Programs. For the record, the modification consists of adding one recently acquired railroad, Smokey Ridge Railroad (SMO).

Both programs are consistent with the certification program models used by previously approved Class III railroads.

Please continue your efforts to enhance railroad safety and maintain compliance with FRA's certification regulations.

If you have any questions regarding this approval, please contact us at (918) 557-0651 or by email at FRAOPCERTPROG@dot.gov, Kevin.Lewis@dot.gov Non-Material or Kurt.Erickson@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Kevin Lewis
FRA Program Manager
Engineer and Conductor Certification & Training