



1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

US Department  
Of Transportation

Federal Railroad  
Administration

Mr. Will Brown  
Twin Cities & Western Railroad  
& Minnesota Prairie Line  
2925 12<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Glencoe, MN 55336

December 3, 2020

Dear Mr. Brown:

This letter responds to the Twin Cities & Western Railroad and Minnesota Prairie Line submission dated December 2, 2020, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the Engineer Certification Program received by FRA on September 10, 2020. 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.

On September 30, 2020, the railroad provided an email which stated that your railroad does not have union representation for your train service employees.

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 the number of qualifying rides when returning to engine service. The minimum duration of annual monitoring rides is clearly defined. Engineers have a detailed training program for previously certified engineers as prescribe in Appendix section 3. Detailed training standards have been established in Section 4 of your engineer certification program.

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

Please contact me with any questions regarding this submission at (202) 393-0978 or [FRAOPCERTPROG@dot.gov](mailto:FRAOPCERTPROG@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

Christian Holt  
Operating Practices Staff Director