



1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

U.S. Department
Of Transportation

Federal Railroad
Administration

Mr. Stephan Condon
Program Administrator
Canadian National Railway
1551 N. Illinois Ave.
Carbondale, IL 62901 City, State, Zip

November 9, 2020

Dear Mr. Condon:

This letter responds to the Canadian National Railway (CN) submission dated October 8, 2020, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the CN Engineer Certification Program received by FRA on September 1, 2020. FRA's procedures for submission and approval of programs is 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 November 30, 2020, the railroad provided a copy of its program modification to the Presidents of BLE and SMART labor organizations representing the railroad's employees. FRA received no comments on the program modifications by the labor organizations.

The program modifications are consistent with the model of the previously approved for Class I railroad programs. FRA understands that the modifications are intended to provide more detail to the engineer certification process in addition to updating contact information. Additional modifications to the submission also addressed deficiencies with the standard requirements of 49 CFR part 240, appendix B. The modifications enhance qualifications for DLSE's. Standards have been set with regards to the number of qualifying rides when returning to engine service. Territorial qualifications are now clearly defined in section three of the program.

FRA notes that your railroad reported eight human factors that caused reportable train accidents in the last five years. A noteworthy accident rate decrease 66% between the years 2018 and 2019 in human factor caused derailments. 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.

Sincerely,

Christian Holt
Operating Practices Staff Director