



1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

U.S. Department  
Of Transportation

Federal Railroad  
Administration

Brad Walker  
Watco Transportation Services  
Vice President of Safety  
315 W 3<sup>rd</sup> Street,  
Pittsburg, KS 66762

Dear Mr. Walker:

This letter responds to the WATCO's revised submission dated April 1, 2021, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the WATCO Conductor Certification Program received by FRA on April 1, 2021. WATCO has complied with FRA's procedures for submission and approval of programs described in appendix B to 49 CFR part 242. The original submittal of the program was February 17, 2021. 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 March 15, 2021, the railroad provided a copy of its program modification to Mr. Rick Lee, General Chairman SMART-TD, and HOB0 President Jerry Rivera, a labor organization representing the railroad's employees. FRA received no comments on the program or program modification by 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 detail to 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.

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

Please contact me with any questions regarding this submission at (202) 366-0978 or [FRAOPCERTPROG@dot.gov](mailto:FRAOPCERTPROG@dot.gov) or [Kevin.Lewis@dot.gov](mailto:Kevin.Lewis@dot.gov)

Sincerely,

Kevin Lewis  
FRA Program Manager Certification

pp Christian Holt  
Operating Practices Staff Director