



1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

U.S. Department
Of Transportation

Federal Railroad
Administration

Blas Baez
Gardendale Railroad
General Manager
5565 N IH 35/PO Box 619
Cotulla, TX 78014

February 28, 2023

Dear Mr. Baez:

This letter responds to the Gardendale Railroad (GDR) submission dated February 22, 2023, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the GDR Conductor Certification Program received by FRA on February 22, 2023. GDR has complied with FRA's procedures for submission and approval of programs is described in appendix B to 49 CFR part 242. 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 package states that no labor organizations are representing the railroad's employees.

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 or Kevin.Lewis@dot.gov

Sincerely,

Kevin Lewis
FRA Program Manager Certification

pp Christian Holt
Operating Practices Staff Director