



1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

U.S. Department  
Of Transportation

Federal Railroad  
Administration

Mitch Harris  
Rio Grande Pacific Corporation  
VP Safety & Compliance  
119 N. Commercial Ave.  
Emmett, ID 83617

July 14, 2023

Dear Mr. Harris:

This letter responds to the Rio Grande Pacific Corporation (RGPC) submission dated June 5, 2023, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the RGPC Conductor Certification Program received by FRA on June 5, 2023. RGPC 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 states that on June 5, 2023, the railroad provided a copy of its program modification to Mr. Keith Fury, General Chairman, New Orleans Gulf Coast Trainmens Union, and Mr. Jeremy Ferguson, President of SMART-TD 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,

Kurt Erickson  
FRA Rail Safety Specialist-Certification

pp Christian Holt  
Operating Practices Staff Director