



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. Chris Taft  
Metro-North Railroad (MNCW)  
Sr. Director Certification and Compliance  
50 Union Ave., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor West  
New Haven, CT 06519

January 16, 2024

Dear Mr. Taft:

This letter responds to the Metro North Railroad (MNCW) submission dated November 17, 2023, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the MNCW Conductor Certification Program received by FRA on November 17, 2023. (MNCW) has complied with FRA's procedures for submission and approval of programs 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 November 17, 2023, the railroad provided a copy of its program modification to Edward Valente, General Chairman of Association of Commuter Rail Employees representing the railroad's employees. FRA received no comments on the program or program modification by the labor organizations.

FRA understands that the modifications provide more detail to the conductor certification process and update contact information. Standards have been set regarding re-qualifying over a specific territory. Detailed training standards have been established in Section Four of your conductor training program.

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

Please contact us 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) or [Kurt.Erickson@dot.gov](mailto:Kurt.Erickson@dot.gov)

Sincerely,

Kevin Lewis  
FRA Program Manager  
Engineer and Conductor Certification & Training