



US Department
Of Transportation

Federal Railroad
Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Antoinette Walker
Port Authority Trans Hudson Corp.
Principal Program & Training Coordinator
1 PATH Plaza, 7th Floor
Jersey City, New Jersey 07306

January 16, 2024

Dear Ms. Walker:

This letter responds to the Port Authority Trans Hudson Corp. (PATH) submission dated January 12, 2024, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the ABCD Engineer Certification Program received by FRA on January 12, 2024. PATH has complied with FRA's procedures for the submission and approval of programs as described in appendix B to 49 CFR part 240. FRA reviewed the railroad's program modifications and determined that the railroad's program modifications conform with the requirements of 49 CFR part 240 for the reasons discussed below.

Your submission states that on January 12, 2024, the railroad provided a copy of its program modification to Mr. Art Blakely III of BLET Local 497, Mr. Carlos Proano, President of BLET Local 497, and Mr. Carlton Williams General Chairman, SMART UTU 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 railroad programs. FRA understands that the modifications are intended to provide more detail to the engineer certification process and updated contact information. Additional modifications to the submission also addressed deficiencies with the standard requirements of 49 CFR part 240, appendix B. The improvements enhance qualifications for DLSEs. Standards have been set concerning re-qualifying over a specific territory. Detailed training standards have been established in Section Five of your engineer 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 or Kevin.Lewis@dot.gov or Kurt.Erickson@dot.gov

Sincerely,

Kurt Erickson
FRA Rail Safety Specialist – Certification

pp Christian Holt
Operating Practices Staff Director