



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dan Fransen
Gulf & Atlantic Railways
Vice-President Safety
245 Riverside Ave. Suite 250
Jacksonville, FL 32202

February 12, 2024

Dear Mr. Fransen:

This letter responds to the Gulf & Atlantic Railways submission dated December 6, 2023, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the Gulf & Atlantic Railways Conductor Certification Program received by FRA on December 6, 2023. Gulf & Atlantic Railways 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 December 6, 2023, the railroad provided a copy of its program modification to Mr. Edward Hall, President of BLE, 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. 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 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