



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dustin Helbling  
Red River Valley & Western Railroad  
Manager Safety & Compliance  
422 Minnesota Avenue  
Breckenridge, MN 56520

March 18, 2024

Dear Mr. Helbling:

This letter responds to the Red River Valley & Western Railroad (RRVW) submission dated February 1, 2024, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the RRVW Conductor Certification Program received by FRA on February 1, 2024. RRVW 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 February 1, 2024, the railroad provided a copy of its program modification to Mr. Roger Brown, President of SMART Local 1137, the 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](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,

Kurt Erickson  
FRA Rail Safety Specialist – Certification

pp Christian Holt  
Operating Practices Staff Director