



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Melvin Summerlin
The Brandywine Valley & Upper Merion and Plymouth Railroads
Safety & Compliance manager
139 Modena Road
Coatesville, PA 19320

March 26, 2024

Dear Mr. Summerlin:

This letter responds to the Brandywine Valley & Upper Merion and Plymouth Railroads submission dated February 8, 2024, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the Brandywine Valley & Upper Merion and Plymouth Railroads Conductor Certification Program received by FRA on February 8, 2024. Brandywine Valley & Upper Merion and Plymouth Railroads have 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 8, 2024, the railroad provided a copy of its program modification to Mr. Fred Grumbine, Union President, Local 1165 of the United Steel Workers 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