



1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

US Department
Of Transportation

Federal Railroad
Administration

Mr. Conner Defebaugh
Blacklands Railroad
General Manager
641 Church Street
Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

June 10, 2024

Dear Mr. Defebaugh:

This letter responds to the Blacklands Railroad (BLR) submission dated June 10, 2024, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the BLR Engineer Certification Program received by FRA on June 3, 2024. (BLR) has complied with FRA's procedures for 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 package states that no labor organizations represent the railroad's employees.

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. The improvements enhance qualifications for DLSEs. Standards have been set concerning re-qualifying over a specific territory. Section Five of your engineer training program has established detailed training standards.

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,

Kevin Lewis
FRA Program Manager – Certification

pp Christian Holt
Operating Practices Staff Director