



1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

U.S. 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 Blackland Railroad (BLR) submission dated June 10, 2024, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the BLR Conductor Certification Program received by FRA on June 3, 2024. (BLR) 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 package states that no labor organizations represent the railroad's employees.

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 with regards to 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 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