



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Frank Eichenlaub
The New York, Susquehanna and Western Railway
Safety and Compliance Officer
1 Railroad Avenue
Cooperstown, NY 13326

July 4, 2024

Dear Mr. Eichenlaub:

This letter responds to The New York, Susquehanna and Western Railway (NYS&W) submission dated May 20, 2024, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the NYS&W Conductor Certification Program received by FRA on May 20, 2024. NYS&W has complied with FRA's procedures for submitting and approving 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 May 20, 2024, the railroad provided a copy of its program modification to Mr. Kevin Moore of the BLE-T labor organization, representing the railroad's employees. FRA received no comments on the program modifications from the labor organization.

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 details about 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.

Don't hesitate to get in touch with 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