



US Department  
Of Transportation

Federal Railroad  
Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Billy Duttine  
Palmetto Railways  
Director of Safety & Operating Practices  
1940 Algonquin Rd, STE 425  
Charleston, SC 29405

August 7, 2024

Dear Mr. Duttine:

This letter responds to the Palmetto Railways submission dated June 25, 2024, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the Palmetto Railways Engineer Certification Program received by FRA on June 25, 2024. Palmetto Railways has complied with FRA's procedures for submitting and approving 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 states that on June 25, 2024, the railroad provided a copy of its program modification to Mr. Jeremy Ferguson, President of the SMART-TD labor organization, representing the railroad's employees. FRA received no comments on the program or modification from the labor organizations.

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. Additional modifications to the submission also addressed deficiencies with the standard requirements of 49 CFR part 240, appendix B. 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 get in touch with us with any questions regarding this submission at (443) 257-8218, FRAOPCERTPROG@dot.gov, 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