



US Department  
Of Transportation

Federal Railroad  
Administration

Alex Engelke  
Empire River Rail, LLC  
Program Administrator  
1400 Main St, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Follansbee, WV 26037

September 17, 2024

Dear Mr. Engelke:

This letter responds to the Empire River Rail, LLC (ERRA) submission dated September 4, 2024, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the ERRA Engineer Certification Program received by FRA on September 4, 2024. ERRA 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 will provide more details about 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 contact us with any questions regarding this submission at (443) 257-8218 or [FRAOPCERTPROG@dot.gov](mailto:FRAOPCERTPROG@dot.gov) or [Kevin.Lewis@dot.gov](mailto: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

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