



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Edward E. Steiner  
Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company  
Superintendent of Safety, Rules & Training  
100 East 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Brewster, OH 44613

December 23, 2024

Dear Mr. Steiner:

This letter responds to the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company (WLE) submission dated November 8, 2024, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the WLE Conductor Certification Program received by FRA on November 8, 2024. WLE 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 November 8, 2024, the railroad provided a copy of its program modification to Mr. Edward Hall, President of BLE, and Mr. Jeremy Ferguson, President of the SMART-TD labor organization, which represents the railroad's employees. FRA received no comments on the program or program modification from the labor organizations.

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.

Please contact us with any questions regarding this submission at (202) 366-0978 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