



US Department
Of Transportation

Federal Railroad
Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Beau Maida
Blacklands Railroad
President/CEO
10 Robert Wilson Rd
Longview, TX 75602

March 3, 2025

Dear Mr. Maida:

This letter responds to the Blacklands Railroad's (BLR) submission dated January 7, 2025, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the BLR Engineer Certification Program received by FRA on January 7, 2025. BLR 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 (202) 366-0978 or FRAOPCERTPROG@dot.gov, Kevin.Lewis@dot.gov, or Kurt.Erickson@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Kurt Erickson
FRA Rail Safety Specialist – Certification

pp Christian Holt
Operating Practices Staff Director