



U.S. 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 Conductor Certification Program received by FRA on January 7, 2025. BLR 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 package states that no labor organizations represent the railroad's employees.

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 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