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US Department
Of Transportation

Federal Railroad
Administration

Mike Burlaga
Red River Valley & Western Railroad
Manager Rail Operations
209 Dakota Ave.
Wahpeton, ND 58705
Mike.burlaga@rrvw.net

November 17, 2025

Mr. Burlaga:

This letter responds to Red River Valley & Western Railroad submissions effective January 1, 2026, seeking approval of its Engineer Certification Program under 49 CFR Part 240 and its Conductor Certification Program under 49 CFR Part 242. FRA received both submissions on October 3, 2025.

FRA reviewed the submitted programs and determined that each conforms to the applicable requirements of Parts 240 and 242, as outlined in Appendix B to the respective regulations. Your submission also states your railroad has provided notice to the labor organization (SMART Local 1137) that represents your railroad's employees. No comments were received from the labor organization.

Both programs are consistent with the models used by previously approved Class III railroads. FRA notes that the updated submissions provide additional detail to both the engineer and conductor certification processes, including revised contact information.

Please continue your efforts to enhance railroad safety and maintain compliance with FRA's certification regulations.

If you have any questions regarding this approval, please contact us at (918) 557-0651, or via email at FRAOPCERTPROG@dot.gov, Kevin.Lewis@dot.gov, or Kurt.Erickson@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Kevin Lewis
FRA Program Manager
Engineer and Conductor Certification & Training