

92 days to 184 days on locomotives equipped with the New York Air Brake (NYAB) CCB-II and Fastbrake air brake systems.

In support of its request, BNSF states that “throughout the life of th[e] waiver, the data collected and reported to the FRA has conclusively established that the AFM indicator can successfully and safely maintain calibration setting for a period of at least 184 days,” citing that in a period measured from June to December 2023, “98% of BNSF’s AFM indicators have tested as in-calibration at the 184-day mark.” BNSF also notes that the relief “has crucially enabled alignment between the AFM indicator-calibration interval and the interval for federally mandated periodic locomotive inspections,” as well as additional safety benefits described in the request.

In this petition, BNSF notes that it also seeks to transition this waiver to a permanent waiver in the future, but at this time, is requesting a five-year extension.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment and a public hearing, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted at www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Communications received by October 7, 2024 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if practicable.

Anyone can search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). Under 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its processes. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to www.regulations.gov, as described in

the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>. See also <https://www.regulations.gov/privacy-notice> for the privacy notice of www.regulations.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC.

John Karl Alexy,

*Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety
Chief Safety Officer.*

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-2018-0084]

Petition for Extension of Waiver of Compliance

Under part 211 of title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that by letter received June 3, 2024, Texas State Railroad/Texas & Eastern Railroad (Petitioner) petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to extend the existing waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 240 (Qualification and Certification of Locomotive Engineers). The relevant Docket Number is FRA-2018-0084.

Specifically, Petitioner requests continued relief from § 240.201, *Implementation*, which requires that only certified persons operate locomotives and trains. The relief would allow noncertified persons to operate a historic locomotive as part of a visitor experience or “Hand on the Throttle” program. In support of its petition, Petitioner notes that the relief would only apply to persons participating in the program, and that participants would be 18 years of age or older and under the direct supervision of a certified and qualified locomotive engineer. Further, all movements would take place during daylight hours and at restricted speed with no opposing train movements, and no public grade crossings will be occupied. Additionally, derail protection will be in place at each end of the track limits.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since

the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment and a public hearing, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

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Issued in Washington, DC.

John Karl Alexy,

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Advisory Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.
ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration (MARAD) announces a meeting of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) Advisory Council (Council). During the meeting, the USMMA leadership will provide an update on programs and priorities, including governance, sexual assault and sexual harassment, academics, culture and diversity, and facilities and infrastructure.