



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

VIA E-MAIL ONLY

May 16, 2025

Ms. Sarah G. Yurasko  
SVP, Law and General Counsel  
American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association  
SYurasko@aslrra.org

**Re: Docket Number FRA-2009-0078**

Dear Ms. Yurasko:

This letter is in response to the petitions received May 14, 2024; August 29, 2024; and September 13, 2024, from the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). ASLRRA requested that FRA expand the regulatory relief granted in Docket Number FRA-2009-0078 to include three additional ASLRRA member railroads as parties to the waiver. The railroads that seek to become parties to the subject waiver are:

- Railserve, Inc. facility in Pasadena, Texas;
- Golden Triangle Railroad (GTRA); and
- Jaxport Terminal Railroad (JXPT).

The existing waiver provides relief from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 21103(a)(4), which, in part, require a train employee to receive 48 hours off-duty after initiating an on-duty period, each day, for 6 consecutive days. The existing waiver allows employees, working for railroads that are subject to the waiver, to receive 24 hours off-duty after initiating an on-duty period, each day, for 6 consecutive days.

FRA notes that ASLRRA expressed in its request that the three above-referenced railroads sought employee input concerning the waiver request, and that the affected employees at each railroad support the waiver. ASLRRA also expressed that employee input concerning the waiver had been documented and will be made available to FRA upon request. Accordingly, FRA has determined that the three above-referenced railroads have met the joint filing requirement of the hours-of-service laws.

Additionally, after ASLRRA's initial petition, FRA received two letters from the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), stating that two railroads must be removed from the list of railroads using the relief in this docket. BLET's members requested to cease participation in

the relief used by the Florida Gulf and Atlantic Railroad (FGA) by letter dated April 26, 2024,<sup>1</sup> and by the Western New York and Pennsylvania Railroad (WNYP) by letter dated May 20, 2024.<sup>2</sup>

By letter dated October 16, 2024, BLET stated that it had gathered signatures from its FGA members to again participate in this waiver, which “enhances the ability of [BLET’s] members to get adequate rest and predictable schedules.”<sup>3</sup> Accordingly, FRA continues to consider FGA as a party to the relief in this docket. However, because the railroad employees at WNYP continue to wish to cease participation in this waiver, FRA has removed WNYP as a party to this waiver and from the list of railroads participating in the waiver, included in this letter as the enclosure Exhibit “A” of Participating Railroads.

FRA’s Railroad Safety Board (Board) carefully reviewed the petition and the technical staff findings. The Board determined that granting ASLRRRA’s request to expand the relief to include three additional railroads (the Railserve, Inc. facility in Pasadena, Texas; GTRA; and JXPT) as parties to the waiver is in the public interest and consistent with railroad safety. Accordingly, the Board grants the request and amends the list of railroads participating in this waiver, included in this letter as the enclosure Exhibit “A” of Participating Railroads.

By letter dated February 9, 2022, FRA granted conditional relief to the railroads then listed in Exhibit “A” of Participating Railroads.<sup>4</sup> The Board is adding a condition to clarify the removal process for unionized railroads (see condition 4). The conditions below replace those in the February 9, 2022, letter.

1. Employees working both 6-day scheduled assignments and 5-day scheduled assignments followed by a 6-day unscheduled assignment, resulting in 6 consecutive days of initiating on-duty periods that do not extend into the early morning hours (midnight to 6 a.m.), may receive 24, rather than 48, hours off duty.
2. The hours-of-service record of any employee working an assignment subject to this waiver must include a notation that this waiver applies to the assignment covered by that individual record (e.g., notation could read “Waiver Docket No. FRA-2009-0078 applies”).
3. Nonunion railroads are required to present the terms of this waiver to train employees hired after the date of this letter, and have them acknowledge either support or opposition to the waiver. This acknowledgment must be placed with the same documentation used to fulfill the joint filing requirement, and be made available to FRA upon request. If at any time, employee support for the waiver drops below 50 percent, the railroad will no longer be eligible to work under the conditions of the waiver.
4. For unionized railroads, if the recognized labor organization withdraws its support for the waiver, the waiver ceases to become effective and the railroad may not use it, until both parties agree to the relief again. Written record of a party’s withdrawal of support must be

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2009-0078-0218>.

<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2009-0078-0221>.

<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2009-0078-0224>.

<sup>4</sup> See <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2009-0078-0213>.

submitted to the docket and provided to ASLRRA. In the event that the railroad and relevant labor organization subsequently agree to reinstate the relief, a written joint acknowledgement of the reinstatement of the relief must be submitted to the docket and to ASLRRA for the relief to be effective.

5. ASLRRA must continue its efforts to validate waiver participants' use of the relief granted and training on the specific conditions applicable to this waiver. Additionally, waiver participants must immediately report any accident/incident involving human factors to their appropriate FRA Safety Management Team (SMT): SMT 2 (202-493-0759) or SMT 8 (360-696-7526).

This letter does not authorize ASLRRA to extend this waiver to railroads that are not listed or to exceed the statutory limit of 276 hours per calendar month as provided by 49 U.S.C. 21103(a)(4).

This waiver expires on February 9, 2027, which is 5 years from the date of the February 9, 2022, decision letter granting the extension of the waiver in this docket. Extension of the waiver is contingent on sufficient data and documentation being available to FRA to further analyze the safety implications of the relief.

At the conclusion of this period, FRA reserves the right to extend the waiver if the Petitioner has made a written request for an extension at least 6 months prior to the expiration date, and if conditions warrant. Any request for extension must (1) demonstrate the Petitioner's compliance with the above-identified conditions; (2) comply with the requirements of § 211.7, *Filing requirements*, and § 211.9, *Content of rulemaking and waiver petitions*; and (3) be submitted via e-mail to [FRAWaivers@dot.gov](mailto:FRAWaivers@dot.gov).

FRA reserves the right to modify or rescind this waiver upon receipt of information pertaining to the safety of railroad operations or in the event of noncompliance with any condition of this waiver. Further, FRA reserves the right to take enforcement action under 49 U.S.C. 20111 for noncompliance with any condition of this waiver or applicable Federal regulations.

In any future correspondence regarding this waiver, please refer to Docket Number FRA-2009-0078. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. William T. Smith, Railroad Safety Specialist, at 682-305-6709 or [William.Smith@dot.gov](mailto:William.Smith@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

Karl Alexy  
Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety  
Chief Safety Officer

Enclosure

## Enclosure

**Exhibit “A” of Participating Railroads**  
**May 16, 2025**  
(Railroads in **bold** type added in this revision)

Acadiana Railway Company, Inc.  
Adrian & Blissfield Railroad  
Alexander Railroad  
Aliquippa & Ohio River Railroad Co.  
AN Railway LLC  
Ann Arbor Railroad  
Arizona Eastern Railway  
Arkansas Louisiana & Mississippi Railroad Co.  
Arkansas Midland Railroad Co., Inc.  
Arkansas & Missouri Railroad  
Arkansas-Oklahoma Railroad Inc.  
Ashland Railway Inc.  
Atlantic & Western Railway, L.P.  
Austin, Todd & Ladd Railroad Company  
B&H Rail Corp.  
Bay Coast Railroad  
Bay Colony Railroad  
Bay Line Railroad, L.L.C., The  
Belvidere and Delaware River Railway  
Black River & Western\*  
Bloomer Shippers Connecting Railroad Co.  
Boone Scenic Valley  
Brandywine Valley Railroad  
Brownsville & Rio Grande International Railroad  
Buckingham Branch Railroad  
Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad, Inc.  
Burlington Junction Railway  
Butte, Anaconda & Pacific Railway Co.  
Camp Chase Railway, LLC.  
Caney Fork & Western Railroad  
Canton Railroad Company  
Cedar Rapids & Iowa City Railway Co.  
Central California Traction Co.  
Central Railroad Company of Indianapolis  
Charlotte Southern Railroad Company  
Chattahoochee Bay Railroad  
Chattahoochee Industrial Railroad  
Chattooga & Chickamauga Railroad  
Chesapeake and Indiana Railroad Company  
Clarendon & Pittsford Railroad Co.  
Cleveland Works Railway, Inc.

Cloquet Term. RR Co., Inc.  
Columbia Terminal Railroad Co.  
Columbus & Greenville Railway Co.  
Columbus & Ohio River Railroad  
Commonwealth Railway, Inc.  
Conecuh Valley Railway, Inc.  
Copper Basin Railway, Inc.  
Corpus Christi Terminal Railroad Inc.  
D & I Railroad  
Dakota, Missouri Valley & Western Railroad  
Delta Southern Railroad Company  
Depew, Lancaster & Western Railroad Co., Inc.  
Detroit Connecting Railroad  
Dover and Delaware River Railroad\*  
Dover and Rockaway River Railroad  
Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad  
Elkhart and Western Railroad  
East Erie Commercial Railroad  
East Jersey Railroad & Terminal Co.  
East Tennessee Railway, L.P.  
Eastern Alabama Railway  
Eastern and Ellis Company (EE)  
Eastern Illinois Railroad Co.  
Everett Railroad Co.  
Farmrail System  
Finger Lakes Railway Co.  
First Coast Railroad Inc.  
Flats Industrial Railroad\*  
Florida Central Railroad Co.  
Florida Gulf & Atlantic, LLC  
Florida Midland Railroad Co., Inc.  
Florida Northern Railroad Co., Inc.  
Fordyce & Princeton Railroad Co.  
Fort Smith Railroad  
Foster Townsend Rail Logistics\*  
Galveston Railroad, L.P.  
Garden City Western Railway  
Gardendale Railroad  
Georgia Central Railway, L.P.  
Georgia Northeastern Railroad Co.  
Georgia Southern Railway Company  
Georgia Southwestern Railroad Inc.  
Gettysburg and Northern Railway  
Golden Isles Terminal Railroad, Inc.  
Golden Isles Terminal Railroad, Inc. – Savannah Intermodal Yard  
Golden Isles Terminal Railroad, Inc. – Savannah Wharf  
**Golden Triangle Railroad**

Grafton & Upton Railroad Company  
Grainbelt System  
Great Lakes Central Railroad  
Great Smoky Mountains Railroad  
Great Western Railway of Colorado, LLC  
Green Mountain Railroad Corp.  
Greenville & Western Railway Co. LLC  
Heart of Georgia Railroad, Inc.  
Hilton and Albany Railroad  
Huron & Eastern Railway  
Illinois & Midland Railroad Inc.  
Indiana Rail Road Company  
Indiana Northeastern Railroad Co., Incorporated  
Indiana Southern Railroad, Incorporated  
Indiana Southwestern Railway  
Ineos Olefins Polymers Battleground\*  
Iron Horse Terminals, LLC  
**Jaxport Terminal Railroad**  
Jackson & Lansing Railroad Company  
Kankakee, Beaverville & Southern Railroad  
Kaskaskia River Railroad Company  
Kaw River Railroad  
Kendallville Terminal Railway Company  
Kentucky West Tennessee Railway  
Keokuk Junction Railway Company  
Knoxville & Holston River Railroad  
Lake Michigan & Indiana Railroad  
Lancaster & Chester Railway Co.  
Lapeer Industrial Railroad  
Laurinburg & Southern Railroad  
Lehigh Valley Rail Management  
Little Kanawha River Rail  
Little Rock & Western Railway, L.P.  
Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad Corp.  
Louisiana & Delta Railroad  
Louisiana & North West Railroad  
Luxapalila Valley Railroad Inc.  
Lycoming Valley Railroad Co.  
Madison Railroad Division  
Mahoning Valley Railroad Co.  
Maryland & Delaware Railroad Co.  
Maryland Midland Railway, Inc.  
Merced County Central Valley Railroad  
Meridian & Bigbee Railroad Co.  
M.G. Rail, Inc.  
Michigan Southern Railroad Company  
Middletown and New Jersey Railroad

Mid-Michigan Railroad Inc.  
Minnesota Commercial Railroad  
Minnesota, Dakota & Western Railroad  
Mission Mountain Railroad  
Mississippi Central Railroad  
Mississippi Southern Railroad  
Missouri and Northern Arkansas Railroad  
Modesto and Empire Traction Company  
Napoleon, Defiance, and Western Railway  
New York & Atlantic Railway Co.  
New York & Ogdensburg Railway Co.  
New York New Jersey Rail, LLC  
Nittany & Bald Eagle Railroad  
North Shore Railroad  
Northeast Texas Connector, LLC  
Northern Lines Railway LLC  
Ohio Central Railroad Co.  
Ohio River Scenic Railway\*  
Ohio Southern Railroad Co.  
Panhandle Northern Railroad Co.  
Pickens Railway Co.  
Pioneer Valley Railroad Co., Inc.  
Pittsburgh & Ohio Central Railroad Co., The  
Plainsman Switching Company  
Port of Greater Baton Rouge\*  
Port of Palm Beach Terminal  
Port of Shreveport-Bossier\*  
Portland & Western Railroad, Inc.  
Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad  
Rail Link Inc. – Lathrop Intermodal Yard  
Rail Link – Livonia  
Rail Link – Stuttgart  
Railserve Inc. –

Indianapolis, Indiana; Sulphur, Louisiana; Cincinnati, Ohio; Bayport, Texas; **Pasadena, Texas**; Freeport, Texas; Port Arthur, Texas; Memphis, Tennessee; and Sturtevant, Wisconsin operations only

Regional Rail - Tyburn Railroad L.L.C  
Riceboro Southern Railway LLC  
Richmond Pacific Railroad Corp.  
Rio Valley Switching Co.  
Ripley & New Albany Railroad (formerly Tennessee Railroad)  
R.J. Corman Railroad Group –

Allentown Lines, Bardstown Line, Carolina Lines, Central KY Lines, Childersburg Line, Cleveland Line, Knoxville and Cumberland Gap Railroad, Lehigh Line, Luzerne & Susquehanna Line, Memphis Line, Nashville & Eastern Line, Nashville & Western Line,

Owego & Harford Line, Pennsylvania Lines, Raleigh and Fayetteville Railroad, Tennessee Terminal, Texas Lines Diboll/Dayton, Western Ohio Lines, West Virginia Line<sup>5</sup>

Rochester Southern Railroad, Inc.  
Sabine River & Northern Railroad Co.  
Sacramento Valley Railroad  
Salt Lake Garfield & Western Railway  
Sandersville RR Co.  
San Luis Central Railroad Company  
San Pedro Valley Railroad  
Santa Teresa Southern Railroad, LLC  
Savannah Port Terminal Railroad, Inc.  
Sequatchie Valley Switching Company  
Sierra Northern Railway  
SMS Rail Lines of New York, LLC  
SMS Rail Service, Inc.  
South Branch Valley Railroad  
South Buffalo Railway Co.  
South Chicago & Indiana Harbor Railroad  
South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad Company  
South Plains Lamesa Railroad, Ltd.  
Southern Switching Co.  
Southwestern Railroad  
St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad Co.  
St. Maries River Railroad  
St. Mary's Railway LLC  
Steelton and Highspire Railroad  
Stillwater Central Railroad Co., Inc.  
Strasburg Railroad Company  
Talley Rand Terminal Railroad\*  
Tazewell & Peoria Railroad, Inc.  
Temple & Central Texas Railway, Inc.  
Tennessee Valley Railroad  
Three Notch Railway, LLC  
Tomahawk Railway, L.P.  
Tradepoint Rail LLC  
Trans Global Solutions – Cedar Port Industrial Park  
Trans Global Solutions – Chevron – Port Arthur, Texas  
Trans Global Solutions – Port of Beaumont  
Trans Kentucky Railroad  
Tyner Terminal Railway Company  
Union City Terminal Railroad  
Upper Merion & Plymouth Railroad  
Utah Central Railway

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<sup>5</sup> FRA notes that the R.J. Corman Railroad Group properties were included generally in this waiver since 2010 (as petitioned by ASLRRRA, see <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2009-0078-0007>), but were inadvertently not included in FRA's previous Exhibit "A" lists.

Utah Railway Co.  
Valdosta Railway, L.P.  
Ventura County Railroad  
Vermilion Valley Railroad Company, Inc.  
Vermont Railway, Inc.  
Vicksburg Southern Railroad  
Walking Horse Railroad  
Warren & Trumbull River Railroad Co., The  
Washington County Railroad Corp.  
Willamette & Pacific Railroad, Inc.  
Wilmington Terminal Railroad Inc.  
Winchester & Western Railroad Co.  
Wiregrass Central Railway, LLC  
Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co.  
Yadkin Valley Railroad  
York Railway Co.  
Youngstown & Austintown Railroad  
Youngstown Belt Railroad  
Youngstown & Southeastern Railroad Co., Inc.

\*Indicates participating railroad is not a member of ASLRRRA.