

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Railroad Administration****[Docket Number FRA–2006–24812]****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 letters received on April 19, 2023, and May 4, 2023, BNSF Railway (BNSF) petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for an extension of a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 232 (Brake System Safety Standards for Freight and Other Non-Passenger Trains and Equipment; End-of-Train Devices). The relevant Docket Number is FRA–2006–24812.

Specifically, BNSF requests a waiver extension from 49 CFR 232.213, *Extended haul trains*, to continue operating extended haul trains for distances of up to 1,702 miles, beyond the limit of 1,500 miles stated in the regulation. In support of its request, BNSF states that it maintains a 24-hour hotline to “support FRA in identification of active trains operating under this waiver and answer any operational questions.” BNSF further states that “operations under this waiver have reduced risk exposure for personal injuries involving walking and driving vehicles during inspections on every train under this waiver.” BNSF explains the relief has also “improved upon crew rest and eliminated 1,000s of hours of idle time[,] resulting in noise reduction and reduced pollutant[s].”

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 <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Communications received by August 15, 2023 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 our 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), the U.S. Department of Transportation (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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BILLING CODE 4910–06–P**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Federal Railroad Administration****[Docket Number FRA–2023–0040]****Petition for Waiver of Compliance**

Under part 211 of title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that on May 19, 2023, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 240 (Qualification and Certification of Locomotive Engineers) and part 242 (Qualification and Certification of Conductors). FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA–2023–0040.

Specifically, Amtrak requests relief required to participate in FRA’s Confidential Close Call Reporting System (C³RS) Program. Amtrak seeks to shield reporting employees and the railroad from mandatory punitive sanctions that would otherwise arise as provided in §§ 240.117(e)(1)–(4); 240.305(a)(1)–(4) and (a)(6); 240.307; 242.403(b), (c), (e)(1)–(4), (e)(6)–(11), (f)(1)–(2); and 242.407. The C³RS Program encourages certified operating crew members to report close calls and protects the employees and the railroad

from discipline or sanctions arising from the incidents reported per the C³RS Implementing Memorandum of Understanding (IMOU).¹

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 parties desire 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 <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Communications received by August 15, 2023 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 our 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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¹ The petition notes that Amtrak, Metrolink, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, the Sheet Metal and Rail Transportation Union—Transportation Division, American Train Dispatchers Association, and Transportation Communications Union, have developed, and are in the process of signing, an IMOU. The program would involve Amtrak employees involved in equipment operations for Metrolink.