



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Nos. FRA-2015-0062, FRA-2022-0098]

Brightline Florida and Florida East Coast Railway's Joint Request to Amend Their Positive Train Control Safety Plans and Positive Train Control Systems

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: This document provides the public with notice that on January 21, 2026, Brightline Florida (BLF) and Florida East Coast Railway (FECR) submitted a joint request for amendment (RFA) to their FRA-approved Positive Train Control Safety Plans (PTCSP) to implement a software update, Interoperable Electronic Train Management Systems (I-ETMS) Protect 77.0.4.0, to FECR and BLF'S locomotive fleets, corrections to the PTCSP and updates to line segment names. As this joint RFA may involve requests for FRA's approval of proposed material modifications to FRA-certified positive train control (PTC) systems, FRA is publishing this notice and inviting public comment on BLF and FECR's joint RFA to their PTCSPs.

DATES: FRA will consider comments received by [INSERT DATE 20 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]. FRA may consider comments received after that date to the extent practicable and without delaying implementation of valuable or necessary modifications to PTC systems.

ADDRESSES: *Comments:* Comments may be submitted by going to <https://www.regulations.gov> and following the online instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name and the applicable

docket number. The relevant PTC docket numbers for the host railroads that filed a joint RFA to their PTCSPs are cited above and in the Supplementary Information section of this notice. For convenience, all active PTC dockets are hyperlinked on FRA's website at <https://railroads.dot.gov/research-development/program-areas/train-control/ptc/railroads-ptc-dockets>. All comments received will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov>; this includes any personal information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gabe Neal, Staff Director, Signal, Train Control, and Crossings Division, telephone: 816-516-7168, e-mail: Gabe.Neal@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In general, title 49 United States Code (U.S.C.) section 20157(h) requires FRA to certify that a host railroad's PTC system complies with title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 236, subpart I, before the technology may be operated in revenue service. Before making certain changes to an FRA-certified PTC system or the associated FRA-approved PTCSP, a host railroad must submit, and obtain FRA's approval of, an RFA to its PTCSP under 49 CFR 236.1021.

Under 49 CFR 236.1021(e), FRA's regulations provide that FRA will publish a notice in the *Federal Register* and invite public comment in accordance with 49 CFR part 211, if an RFA includes a request for approval of a material modification of a signal or train control system. Accordingly, this notice informs the public that, on January 21, 2026, BLF and FECR jointly submitted an RFA to their respective PTCSPs seeking FRA's approval to implement I-ETMS Protect 77.0.4.0 software to improve system performance, as well as corrections to the PTCSP and updates to line segment names. Their joint RFA is available in Docket Numbers FRA-2015-0062 and FRA-2022-0098.

Interested parties are invited to comment on BLF and FECR's joint RFA by submitting written comments or data. During FRA's review of these railroads' joint RFA, FRA will consider any comments or data submitted within the timeline specified in this

notice and to the extent practicable, without delaying implementation of valuable or necessary modifications to PTC systems. *See* 49 CFR 236.1021; *see also* 49 CFR 236.1011(e). Under 49 CFR 236.1021, FRA maintains the authority to approve, approve with conditions, or deny these railroads' joint RFA to their PTCSPs at FRA's sole discretion.

Privacy Act Notice

In accordance with 49 CFR 211.3, FRA solicits comments from the public to better inform its decisions. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to <https://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* <https://www.regulations.gov/privacy-notice> for the privacy notice of regulations.gov. To facilitate comment tracking, we encourage commenters to provide their name, or the name of their organization; however, submission of names is completely optional. If you wish to provide comments containing proprietary or confidential information, please contact FRA for alternate submission instructions.

Issued in Washington, DC.

Carolyn R. Hayward-Williams,

Director, Office of Railroad Systems and Technology.

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