

From: [Assenza, Adam](#)
To: [Catherine Van Arnam](#)
Cc: [Higgins, Michael](#); [Ian Leidner](#)
Subject: RE: Hello from the Office of Texas State Rep. Ellen Troxclair
Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 3:16:00 PM

Dear Representative Troxclair,

Thank you for your interest in the environmental review of Texas Materials' proposal to construct and operate a new rail line in Burnet and Lampasas counties. The Surface Transportation Board's Office of Environmental Analysis is in the very early stages of the environmental review for this project. Preliminary consultation letters have been sent to federal, state, and local elected officials, agencies, and Tribal Nations requesting initial feedback on the project and responses are due by April 14, 2025. There will be additional opportunities for consultation and public involvement as the environmental review progresses. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate your request to join us on the initial site visit. However, I would be happy to provide more information about the Board's environmental review process via a virtual meeting or phone call.

Respectfully,

Adam Assenza

Environmental Protection Specialist

Office of Environmental Analysis

Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street SW

Washington, DC 20423

O: 202-245-0301

C: 202-235-4658

From: Catherine Van Arnam <Catherine.VanArnam@house.texas.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 12:48 PM

To: Assenza, Adam <Adam.Assenza@stb.gov>

Cc: Higgins, Michael <Michael.Higgins@stb.gov>

Subject: RE: Hello from the Office of Texas State Rep. Ellen Troxclair

Some people who received this message don't often get email from catherine.vanarnam@house.texas.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello gentlemen, and thank you both again for your extensive time on the phone with

me to help this office understand both the environmental side and transportation merit side of this process.

Attached is the letter Rep. Troxclair has submitted through the portal for your office's consideration Adam, to help determine level of environmental review, and we look forward to further opportunity for her to speak on behalf of her constituents in Burnet County.

Gratefully,

Catherine Van Arnam | *Communications Director*
State Representative Ellen Troxclair | *HD 19*
Room E1.322 | (512) 463-0490

From: Catherine Van Arnam

Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 2:21 PM

To: adam.Assenza@stb.gov

Cc: michael.higgins@stb.gov

Subject: RE: Hello from the Office of Texas State Rep. Ellen Troxclair

Hello Adam, just following up on my call regarding the attached letter, and looping in Mr. Higgins here, who got the attached email from us yesterday. Our questions to you both in addition to the below is to verify two things.

First, the word in Burnet County that the *public* is welcomed to submit comment on environmental impact at this juncture, and I wanted to ask if their comments will be considered, and if they will be set aside at this point in the process, if there is another point in this process that the public may have an impact on the decision, whether their perspective is environmental or otherwise. Here is the information being shared:

Submit personal statements to the Surface Transportation Board by April 3rd! Click link below for the submission form. Docket # FD 36815 Project Name - Texas Materials Group, Inc.

<https://www.stb.gov/proceedings-actions/e-filing/environmental-comments/>

The second question is regarding this office's upcoming letter to communicate any comment or concerns that Representative Troxclair has on behalf of her constituents. We are grateful for that opportunity. To assist her in determining the appropriate scope and level of the environmental review for this project and to prepare for this response, *we would like to know as much as possible about this proposal*, beyond what this letter communicates. And also to assist our understanding of what is proposed and the process going forward. Is it a correct assumption that the 14.4 miles of new rail line is not a current right of way? The 12.5 miles of right of way of a former rail line (last used when?), we have heard that ownership of some of those parcels was sold from the former line to the current property owners. So we are unclear even if we are facing an eminent domain possibility or the use of existing right of way that is fully owned by the Texas Materials group.

We appreciate your time and look forward to hearing back.

Gratefully,

Catherine Van Arnam | *Communications Director*
State Representative Ellen Troxclair | *HD 19*
Room E1.322 | (512) 463-0490

From: Catherine Van Arnam

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 1:19 PM

To: michael.higgins@stb.gov

Subject: Hello from the Office of Texas State Rep. Ellen Troxclair

Hello Mr. Higgins, thank you for your time on the phone, We have been hearing about this potential project from our District Liaison and local officials for a few weeks now, and are hopeful to gain clarity directly from your agency, about the process.

We would like to learn how residents, local officials, and the Representative, may contribute to the decision to permit or not permit Texas Materials to reconstruct the Southern Pacific Lampasas Branch between Lampasas, TX and Burnet, TX, which has been abandoned since the 1960s, for transporting aggregate materials between quarries. This is a 29.6 miles line that would require 14.4 miles of new track.

- Do you have a document or way we may be briefed on the request that Texas Materials has submitted, and how that request is processed by your agency.
- We understand that the Surface Transportation Board's Office of Environmental Analysis is accepting comments "from local agencies," until April 3rd. We are wondering if that group could include the State Representative?
- Also wondering if there is a way the public may contribute to this decision and find out more about what is involved in the process of approval over time. Specifically, where residents, the County officials may have opportunity to contribute.
- We have heard that there are several routes being considered, and would like to know if that's true as well.

I have your direct line as 202-245-0284.

Gratefully.

Catherine Van Arnam | *Communications Director*
State Representative Ellen Troxclair | *HD 19*
Room E1.322 | (512) 463-0490

