



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

September 7, 2007

Joe H. and Erna L. Balzen
780 CR 354
Hondo, TX 78861

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34284, Southwest Gulf Company - Construction and Operation Exemption - Medina County, TX; Request to be a Consulting Party under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

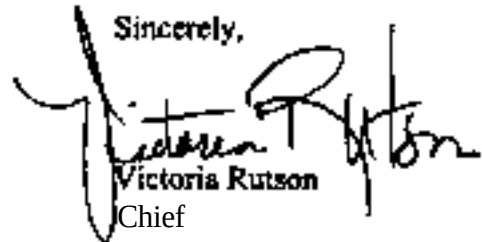
Dear Mr. and Mrs. Balzen:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is in receipt of your September 4, 2007 written request to act as a consulting party for the above referenced project pursuant to Section 36 CFR 800.2(c)(5) of the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), which states: "Certain individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking may participate as consulting parties due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties interest." As you know, SEA is conducting an environmental review, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and NHPA, of the Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's proposed rail line construction and operation in Medina County, Texas. Section 106 of NHPA requires that the Board consult with Federal, tribal, state and local agencies, and additional consulting parties with an interest in the project area, to identify, assess and resolve any adverse effects to significant historic properties that may be caused by the proposed undertaking.

We believe your involvement as a Section 106 consulting party is appropriate given your close connections to the area. We are therefore pleased to include your organization as a Section 106 consulting party for this proceeding and will ensure that you receive all relevant information to assist you in your reviews.

We appreciate your interests in this project and look forward to working with you as we

complete the Section 106 and NEPA processes. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Diana Wood, SEA Project Manager at 202-245-0302.

Sincerely,

Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis

cc: F. Lawrence Oaks, Texas Historical Commission
Brad Patterson, Texas Historical Commission

September 3, 2007

HEI-31417
DAW

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.

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Dear Ms. Rutson;

Joe and I request to be made consulting parties to the programmatic agreement for Southwest Gulf Railroad, finance docket 34284.

We OM, descendants of the original settlers of Linds. Our home, built in 1911, is eligible for listing as a historical home. We are listed Ox, A Lujan Family Land Heritage Ranch. Our ranch has been in our family since 1881.

It is of great concern to us what is being planned for our historical community.

We sincerely hope you will grant our request. Our home is located near both Eastern Routes.

Respectfully,
Lana H. Balzon

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Hondo, Ind. 78861