

HEA-605
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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

August 17, 2007

David H. Coburn
Steptoe & Johnson, LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

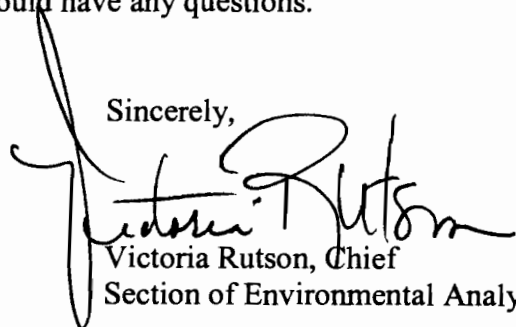
RE: STB Finance Docket No. 34284, Southwest Gulf Railroad
Company, Construction and Operation in Medina County, TX

Dear Mr. Coburn:

As you know, the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will focus on the various alternatives in preparing the Final Environmental Impact Statement in this case. Your letter of August 3, 2007 indicates that the Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's (SGR) now favors the Eastern Bypass Route as the "preferred" alternative and that SGR is prepared to work with the landowners including the Weiblen family to address their concerns, but does not provide SGR's views on the feasibility of the Weiblen Modification, which is one of the Eastern Alternatives that has been suggested. To aid SEA's analysis, we request that SGR present its views on the Weiblen Modification, and provide reasons for why it believes that alternative would, or would not, be a reasonable and feasible alternative for this project.

To avoid unnecessary delay in preparing the Final EIS, we would appreciate that this information be provided to SEA as soon as possible, and that the Weiblen Family be copied on your response. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Diana Wood, SEA Project Manager at 202-245-0302, if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,



Victoria Rutson, Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis

cc: Anthony Weiblen, Weiblen Farms