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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

September 7, 2007

Richard Fournier
200 PR 3531
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. Fournier:

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