



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

October 2, 2007

Curtis Saathoff
7506 Pipers Run
San Antonio, TX 78251

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

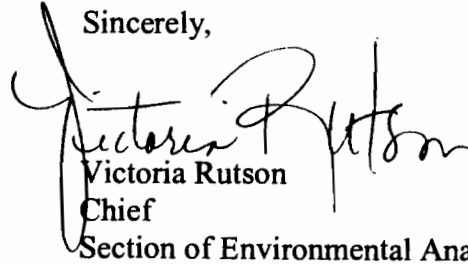
Dear Ms. Jones:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is in receipt of your September 5, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Victoria Rutson

Chief

Section of Environmental Analysis

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

September 5th 2007

HE1-3187
D7w

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S. W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

FAX# 202-245-0454

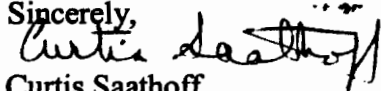
RE: Finance Docket 34284
Question on Home and Farm Location
6710 FM 2676, Hondo TX 78661

Dear Madam:

If not already a member, I would like to be made a consulting party to the programmatic agreement which is currently being prepared by the Texas Historical Commission.

My justification for this request stems from the fact I have a Texas Heritage farm and ranch inherited from the original Saathoff settlers in Quihi. On this property my mother currently lives in a home that is eligible for listing as an historic home. The Eastern Medina Dam alternate route would adversely affect our home, ranch and farm. The rail line will cause flooding of our home and farm land. The rail line will also divide our farm and land, leaving approximately 35 acres west of the rail line and approximately 285 acres east of the rail line. The only access to the land is from FM 2676 and if a rail line goes through, it will cause us to lose the value of the land as a farm and cattle operation. I am against any rail line in the area and fail to see how they can be deemed a "public carrier" giving Vulcan the right to condemn our land for their private use. If they were a public carrier why don't they go straight to Rio Medina (Mumme's Grain Company) where at least something besides Vulcan's rocks can be carried.

Sincerely,



Curtis Saathoff
7506 Pipers Run
San Antonio, TX 78251
210-684-4989
210-326-1556

