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December 7, 2004

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Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
Washington, DC 20423
Attn: Rini Ghosh
STB Docket No. FD 34284

Re. Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Southwest Gulf Railroad

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

My name is Larry Coyle and I own property abutting the proposed Vulcan quarry that is to be served by the Southwest Gulf Railroad (SGR). This letter is being written to comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA).

My first comment concerns the no-action alternative. The stated result of this alternative is that Vulcan would truck limestone to the Union Pacific Railroad at Dunlay, Texas. I don't believe this is a foregone conclusion and should not be indicated in the EIS as such. It is my opinion the current infrastructure of roads would not allow trucking to be an economically viable option for Vulcan. Vulcan has made this statement publicly in the past.

Secondly, this EIS strictly addresses the impact of rail traffic generated by Vulcan's limestone transport. Since SGR has been designated a common carrier, this generalization is unrealistic and the EIS should consider effects of additional rail traffic and traffic carrying hazardous cargo. If it is truly the position of the SEA that this railroad will only carry Vulcan's limestone, then it must consider the proposed quarry and this proposed railroad as a joint project and thus include the environmental impacts of the quarry in this EIS. My personal opinion is that the SGR will only serve Vulcan and consequently should never have been given common carrier status. It is unconscionable that SGR will have the right of Eminent Domain strictly for the economic gain of a Fortune 500 company.

Lastly, the most troubling impact of this project has not been addressed in this report and is already being experienced. This is the effect that this project is having on the community. It is turning friend against friend and family against family. The lines have been drawn following the money trail. No amount of limestone is worth this.

Thank you in advance for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,


Larry Coyle, P. E.

cc: Medina County Environmental Action Association