

#E1-2819
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received
2/5/07

January 27, 2007

Dear Ms. Ghosh,

(FINANCE DOCKET # 34284)

We are writing you today about our concerns related to the operations of Vulcan Materials Co./Southwest Gulf Railroad. We believe there are serious issues that can be averted if good choices are made.

This past year we had very little rain; however, my husband and I have lived in Quihi during times of flooding also. We believe it is imperative that the proposed rail line stay away from the natural drainage areas of Quihi, which are significant (please refer to the maps included in the Surface Transportation Board's report for the many creeks and rivers along or near the proposed area). Any construction of a rail line will adversely affect the natural drainage of the area and the local residents of that area. Another related matter of concern is the fuel storage and maintenance area. It should be moved out of the Elm Creek flood plain; we believe a more southerly location is better.

We have lived in Medina County for almost 20 years and enjoyed the peaceful rural community. The home we own was built circa 1850 and we are in the process of obtaining historical designation. We believe our home, as well as other historical buildings, will be damaged directly and indirectly by the introduction of a rail system near these structures. Also, our home is the site of the Trinity University star gazing field trips every semester for their Astronomy classes. The traffic generated by Vulcan's proposed project would significantly impede the ability to see dark sky objects by these classes. The damage to visibility would increase over time as well.

There is significant development from western San Antonio towards Medina County. We believe the residential development in Medina County will also increase tremendously. Any plans for Medina County should take this into account. With the increased population coming, Vulcan should help the residents by funding the construction of overpasses over any road their rail line may cross. This must be done as construction occurs, not after.

We would prefer that Vulcan did not pursue their project in this location. We purchased our home here to enjoy the peace and quiet of the area. But if it must happen, it should be done responsibly with respect to the future as well as current residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David F. Hoesley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of a smaller, less legible signature.

Lois and Dave Hoesley
250 CR 365
Hondo, Tx 78861