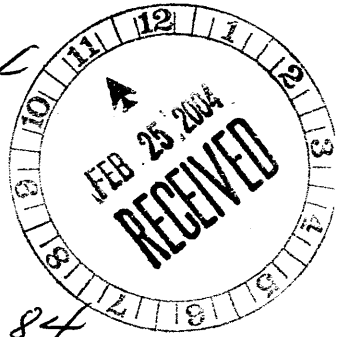


2-20-04

To: Surface Transportation Board
From: Robert J. Schulte, Hondo TX.



Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34284

Please consider my hand written comments to be genuine and not part of mass printed letters to be signed by different individuals.

The proposed project is controversial only because a small group of individuals have made it so with opposition based mainly on "emotion" and not on reason. Reason should include the following:

(1.) Vulcan is a public traded stockholder company owned by pension funds, widows, investors from all parts of the country including Medina County. All part of our great "free enterprise system".

(2.) The thousands of good Vulcan employees are all good tax-paying citizens and are not "demons" out to destroy Quikri & the safety of our county roads.

(3.) The property owners at the quarry site have a right to develop their natural resources and to profit from it

cont'd

(4.) Progress will come to Medina County and the state. Necessary hi-ways, bridges, buildings, etc will have to be built. This resource will have to come from somewhere & will be transported via trucks if not by the proposed railroad.

(5) The short route thru the sparsely populated area w/ protected crossing, turn + signals is the safest way.

(6) My property is within 1 mile of the main Union Pacific railroad and hi-w 90 and a few miles from the quarry road. Over the years we have learned to live with the many trains & the rail crossings.

(7) I've been around for some 76 years and can't believe our "environment" has suffered due to the railroad. If trains can go ~~through~~ the middle of Hondo all these years, they can certainly pass by Quirk in the future.

My hope is that "reason" will prevail and the important economic development project will come to pass. That Quirk, Medina County, School Districts, and all "stock-holders" will prosper in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted: Robert J. Schutte