

#E1-2728
R21

15 January, 2007

Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001
Attention Rini Ghosh

received
1/29/07

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

We have lived on Elm creek since 1995 and have seen numerous floods, some more violent than others. Elm creek floods are not just rising water, but very fast moving "white water." When a flood begins, the water rushes out of the watershed into Elm creek. It comes down stream like a wall of water in a deafening roar. I have heard it coming while standing on dry ground in the creek bottom and had to literally run for my life to avoid being swept away. We have seen large trees, farm animals and assorted wild life swept downstream in the rapidly moving water.

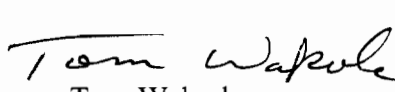
We have looked at Vulcans' water abatement plan which was filed with TCEQ. The plan showed us why Elm creek floods are so violent. The 18,301 acre water shed that flows south out of the hills, would flow through the quarry, the rail loop and fuel storage/ maintenance area. This certainly should have made Vulcan and TCEQ realize that the quarry project is in the wrong place. It is unthinkable that Vulcan would plan to build a fuel storage area in this flood plain and that STB would allow it to happen.

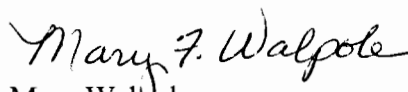
How can we be assured that during the next flood following the quarry opening, the fuel and the fuel storage tanks and most of the maintenance facility will not be washed down Elm creek and along the flood plain? Any fuel contamination will devastate this fertile land and cause harm to the wildlife.

We think the fuel storage and maintenance facility should be moved out of the flood plain. Vulcan has already purchased approximately 500 acres of land at the south terminus in the Dunlay area. The trains and trucks can be refueled in this area as easily as in the quarry.

We also recommend that Vulcan be required to develop a contingency plan that will preposition the locomotives (with hundreds of gallons of fuel on board and other contaminants) out of the flood plain when this area is under a flood warning. This should include any trucks and equipment that can be moved which contains HAZMAT.

We have many other concerns about the quarry and rail project which we have expressed verbally in public meetings and in written comments in the DEIS. We also agree with the MCEAA position to oppose this project in the Quihi area.


Tom Walpole
5201 FM2676 Hondo, TX. 78861


Mary Walpole
5201 FM2676 Hondo, TX. 78861