

#E1-2715
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P.O. Box 369
Castroville, Texas 78009
January 22, 2007

Surface Transportation Board
Rini Ghosh,
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Received
1/29/07

Re: Finance Docket # 34284
Vulcan Materials Co. / Southwest Gulf Railroad

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

I would like to express my concerns and my opposition to the proposed Vulcan quarry and to the railroad spur.

First, I am concerned about the effects on the quality and quantity of water — the surface water and the underground water. The proposed quarry site lies in the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone, and the aquifer supplies water for hundreds of thousands of residents in the San Antonio area — one of the most rapidly-growing areas of the United States. We must be concerned about a quarry/railroad in such a sensitive area.

Medina County has been an agriculturally productive area of Texas and many farmers are dependent upon water from the aquifer to grow food stuffs as well as hay/grain for ranchers who raise livestock on non-arable land. We must be concerned about the volume of water needed to meet the daily needs of the residents and the need of water to support irrigation and the volume required by the proposed quarry.

Those of us who live in the immediate area who depend on shallow wells for our personal needs and surface water (stock tanks) for our livestock will be greatly impacted by the run-off from the fuel storage and maintenance areas. In addition, building a railroad will effect flooding during rainy seasons.

Another concern of mine is the destruction of a very quiet, peaceful, and healthful way of life. Those of us who are descendants of the German and Alsatian immigrants who came to Quikhi in the 1850's as a part of Henri Castro's colonists, retirees building their dream homes, and young couples with a desire to bring up their children in the country do not want their lives ruined by the air pollution and noise pollution that would result from the quarry/railroad.

This is an historic site! There are many homes that would be damaged by the construction of the railroad and quarry. These homes date from the 1850's! There are also archeological sites from Quikhi's first inhabitants - the native Americans - that would be impacted.

Thank you for reading my concerns.

Sincerely,
Norm L. Winkler