

#E1-1425
RSL

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
Washington, DC 20423
Attn: Ms. Rini Ghosh, Project Manager

8 January 2005

Re: STB Docket No. FD 34284

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

Reading the draft environmental impact study sent out to Medina County Environmental Association on the proposed rail line that would serve Vulcan's quarry idea was extremely difficult for me since it was presented to us in three such huge volumes of analytical terms. This was not a thorough analysis, as Vulcan's project manager wishes us to believe, and all the work that was put into the data failed to show that our concerns would be met before a permit could be issued. MCEAA has worked tirelessly to procure flood plain maps and historical site and heritage land information to warn STB of the hazards ahead. The Quihi community has properties that can qualify for the National Register.

All four rail alignments cross this cultural resource (Vol. III, pg. 33). Further study is required!

We are being asked to believe, in the DEIS, that our well and water issues are "insignificant", and that dust, dirt, and noise would be "minimal". When we submitted our concerns, we were told that this would be taken care of after the permit is approved. We know this will never happen, as evidenced by other railroad sites owned by Vulcan in other neighborhoods. (We have copies of newspaper clippings to show this).

The Edwards aquifer recharge zone is directly in the path of Vulcan's proposed operation. This is a problem that is unsolvable...a very serious matter. You must understand our concerns about water well problems or a water well catastrophe where some could collapse and others would be polluted. We do not want to drink cloudy well water. We do not want the air we breathe filled with dust. We do not want the quality of life in Quihi lessened. It appears that Vulcan was able to put together their own study, and to dismantle all the MCEAA concerns; then show their study to the Section on Environmental Analysis and to have it presented as truth.

Many of the farms and ranches in the proposed 7 to 9 mile area are listed in the Texas Dept. of Agriculture Family Land Heritage Program as being in continuous agricultural operation by the same family for 100 years or more. Also there are some homes in the same site area that are listed with the State Historical Comm. What is not stated in the DEIS is what will be done to protect the historical sites and heritage lands. Many landowners have put a covenant on their land to keep a rail line from cutting directly through their property; but it appears this giant industry will not acknowledge the peoples frustrations and will just overlook their concerns, using devious tactics, to gain a permit.

We do not accept words like "minimal" and "insignificant" when talking about things as basic as clean water and air, and will keep fighting to keep what is rightfully ours. Surely this is not just a matter of paperwork for STB. When providing your recommendations to the three appointed commissioners who will pass judgement on the quarry-railroad project, please speak of the polluted drinking water problem, the ruination of historic and of heritage land, and the fact that the location includes many archeological artifacts of prehistoric age (volume I of DEIS, pg. 3-57).

You can help us, your constituents, by completing a full connected-action study on the area proposed for the Quihi quarry-railroad; and save the historic settlement of Quihi.

Respectfully,

cc: US Representative Henry Bonilla
US Senator John Cornyn
US Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

Joyce Landrum

Joyce Landrum
776 CR 354 (Quihi)
Honda, TX 78881