

#E1-2771
R2

881 County Road 353
Hondo, Texas 78861

January 24, 2007

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

received
1/26/07

Reference: Finance Docket #34284

Dear Ms. Gosh,

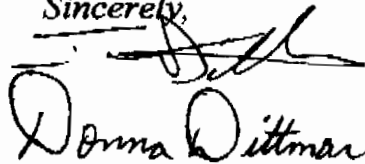
As a resident farmer/rancher involved in the proposed Vulcan Materials quarry and railroad spur in Upper Quihi we need to voice our concerns again regarding this project. My wife, 2 and 4 year old children, and I live on my parents farm located on County Road 353 less than a mile from the quarry site. Six of the seven listed routes run through the farm. The proposed route, which Vulcan still seeks a permit for, runs right through the middle of the farm located in the Upper Quihi Rural Historic District, less than 1000 feet from the 70 year plus farmhouse(shown in your SDEIS as individually eligible for the National Register). It's then proposed to go on down through the flood plane and threaten the historical part of Quihi.

It's not enough we have to deal with the threat to the air and water quality since we are so close to the proposed quarry and rail, our lives are threatened because we will have to cross the rail within the farm, and also on the county and state roads to get to work and back. The children will eventually have to ride the school bus on these roads covered with trucks and dangerous rail crossings.

We feel a real danger of flooding in the Quihi Historic District if the railroad follows the proposed route through the flood plane that Vulcan insists on using. It could possibly create a major flooding situation in that area. There are some very nice historical homes, a church, and cemeteries that will be threatened by flooding if the proposed rail is built.

There is the most recently suggested route, the MCEAA Medina Dam Alternative Route, which would still most certainly cause dangers and problems to some but would not involve the flood plane or the Quihi Historical District and would create much safer crossing sites . We would hope that this route would be considered the safest and least destructive overall by Surface Transportation Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donna Dittmar". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

James and Donna Dittmar