

HEI-3235
FD 34284
Received 11/19/07

November 8, 2007

Programatic Agreement for Southwest Gulf Railroad

FD34284

**Victoria Rutson
Surface Transportation Board SEA
395 E St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20423**

Dear Ms. Rutson:

I am Judy Dittmar of 3980 FM 2676, Hondo, Texas.

My husband Melvin and I were unable to apply as a consulting party during the required time, but would like the chance to apply now and thank the Section on Environmental Analysis for the opportunity to comment on the Programatic Agreement.

We own property at 881 CR 353 that would be utilized by Southwest Gulf Railroad as their Eastern ByPass Route, which would run within the area of potential affect (actually, 6 of the 7 routes would have an affect). We own a home listed as historical (no. 333 A-P) in the Draft EIS. Our property is also close to another historical site-the Four Mile Waterhole, used by Native Americans as well as the U.S. Calvary using it to water their horses. It is also within the APA. Our son owns the property joining us on the west. He and his family live in the above house. The rail could run within a thousand feet of the home on either side. The noise, dust, and vibration of any of the proposed routes would have the same effect on our property and would destroy the aesthetic value of our historic home.

We suggest that a thorough archeological survey be done on all these areas as none have been surveyed. We suggest an on-ground survey be done by trained archeological personnel. This is a very logical and proper way to

insure archeological and historical property preservation. This survey must be done before any decision is made or any construction begins.

Again, our family thanks you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Melvin Dittmar
Judy Dittmar