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Questionnaire and Comment Form

Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's
Proposed Rail Construction in Medina County, TX
STB Finance Docket No. 34284

June 12, 2003

This questionnaire and comment form is designed to help you identify and describe any issues of interest to you regarding Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's Proposed Rail Construction in Medina County, TX. Your comments will help the Surface Transportation Board, Section of Environmental Analysis understand public interests and concerns about the project as we conduct our environmental review.

Please complete this questionnaire after you have reviewed the exhibits. If you have a concern about a particular geographic area, please circle it on the attached map.

Please give us the completed form tonight or mail it to:

Attn: FD 34284
Rini Ghosh
Attorney-Adviser
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Your name and address are optional, but would be useful if you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive subsequent information regarding this project.

Name: Jennifer Lindsey

Address: 190 CR 4512

City, State, Zip: Hondo, TX 78861

Telephone: 830-741-4041

1. Which of the following applies to your situation?

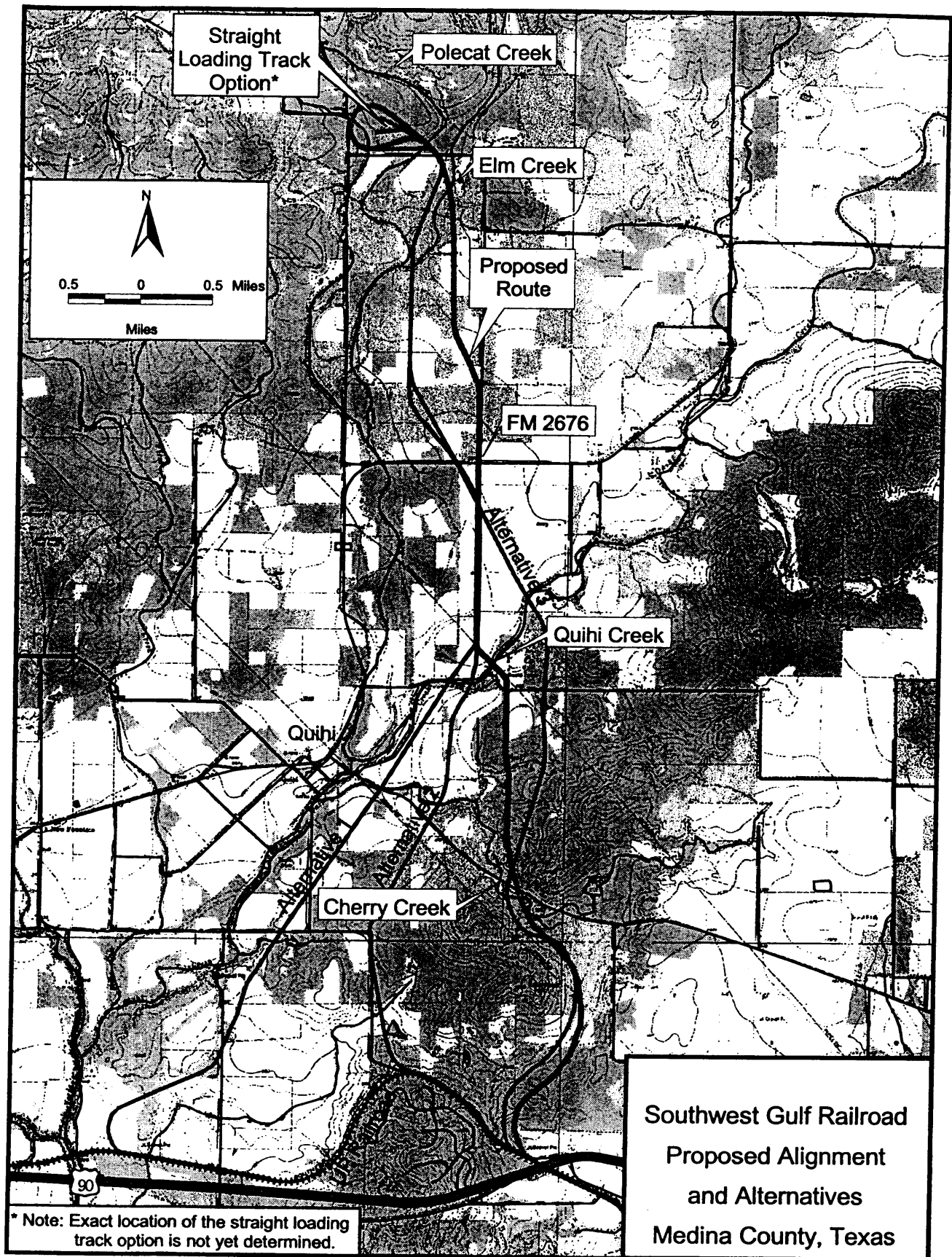
- ☒ The proposed rail line is near my home.
- ☒ The proposed rail line is near my business.
- ☒ The proposed rail line crosses my property
- ☒ Other, please specify

2. What are your concerns regarding potential environmental impacts and do you have any mitigation suggestions?

See attached

3. Please use this space for additional comments or suggestions.

Thank you for your comments.



Jennifer Lindsey
190 CR 4512
Hondo, Tx. 78861

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Subject: Southwest Gulf Railroad Company (SGR)
Construction and operation Exemption, Medina County, Texas
The environmental issues associated with SGR's proposal to build and operate a seven mile rail line in Medina County, Texas.

The damage that would be caused by this rail line to my property and life would be substantial. I have outlined a few of the major things that would occur.

- Cattle and Pasture Splitting
 - I Cattle cannot reach water
 - II Cattle cannot reach grass
 - III What happens when a cow goes through the fence and gets run over by the train?
 - Vulcan liable?
 - SGR liable?
 - Both?
- Pasture Rotation
 - I Spring
 - II Summer
 - III Fall/Winter
 - Rail line would impair pasture rotation
- Pecan Orchards
 - I Destroying irrigation to thousands of trees
 - Actually removing hundreds, I will not be able to irrigate thousands due to pipe system damage.
 - II All the trees are 20 years and older
 - Estimated value of a tree that age ranges from 6 to 20 thousand dollars a tree (production life and value not included in estimate)
 - III Pipes
 - The whole pipe systems in the orchards are used for irrigation of the trees and grass in between the trees. This grass is baled, sold, and/or used for our cattle feed during dry times such as winters and summers.
- Klien Fields
 - I Two klien fields that would be completely damaged
 - The first one:
 - ◆ Used for cattle herds and horses
 - ◆ Baled
 - ◆ Two irrigation systems and both would be destroyed
 - Main irrigation system has 6 inch pipes, shallow buried
 - Smaller irrigation system installed less than a year ago
 - Both will be damaged beyond future use
 - The second one:
 - ◆ Used for cattle herds and horses
 - ◆ Baled
 - ◆ One main irrigation system
 - Will be severed and the source to it will be cut off completely

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● Gas pipeline

- I Is extremely old and sensitive to vibrations and weight on it
- II The previous owner of the property ruptured the pipeline while plowing
- III Surveyors come out periodically to check for trees and debris on top of the cleared gas line path.
 - If the line cannot handle trees growing on it and a simple plow caused it to rupture, imagine the amount of damage and problems a train would cause
- IV The map shows the track running on top of the line. That whole part of the line would have to be replaced annually and it would cost huge amounts of money constantly to up keep it.
- V The gas line is old and dangerous to human and animal life. If the line were to rupture or something would go wrong, not only would people and animals be put in danger, but the hazardous materials' pollution to ground water and soil would be incredible.

● Water and Well Damage

- I There is an Edwards Aquifer well on my property that is 1500 feet deep. This well is old and fragile as it is, vibrations would cause the well casing, pipes and water storage tanks to break, wasting thousands of gallons of Aquifer water frequently.
- II There are other problems the vibrations would cause
 - Pump damage
 - Pipe damage, which would let sediment into our drinking water
 - Health problems resulting from unfavorable sediment quantities
- III We also have a Yancey water system which serves as a backup for household use only.
 - The pipes are extremely small and have little pressure flowing in them; meaning they are inadequate for even simple household use
 - The pipes cannot be used for irrigation due to their small size (the irrigation systems would be destroyed anyway, so being able to irrigate is out of the question) and irrigating requires a large volume of water to flow through the pipes used, and the small Yancey pipes would not be able to withstand the pressure

● Noise Factor

- I Four trains a day, each a mile long and full of rocks would have an effect on us and the surrounding people. As it is, we can hear the Hondo trains clearly, which are miles away, and having a train in our yard would be extremely disturbing and deafening
- II My parents decided to move out here because it was secluded from everything, green when it rained, and most of all quiet.
- III Retirees, my parents worked hard all their life raising five children while working to support them and now they deserve to live the rest of their lives out in a quiet, peaceful place such as the one they have found and now call home.
- IV The new house my Father and I designed was built in 1999 (we moved out here in 1998) and, although it is new, the vibrations of a train less than 500 yards from it would cause structural damage even to a new house like ours. Made of brick, the house would experience seismic conditions the house was not built to

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withstand. Unlike other brick houses near trains, this house was not built with train vibrations in mind; therefore, it does not have the reinforcements within the structure to keep it standing straight.

● Dust

I Several families in the area have small children. You hear about the mold in houses causing respiratory problems, but what about limestone dust? Sure you say you will rinse the dirt off the rocks, but you will only be getting to the top layer and after that's gone, the lower layers will loosen with the vibrations, become dust, and float into every little nose and lung of the small children who have no idea why they cannot breathe after a week of it.

● The Historical Significance to Our Property

I 150 years ago, the Schuehles and Saathoffs built a house out of clay, rocks, and wood near the Quihi creek. Now a historical landmark, this house would not be able to withstand a train less than 500 yards from it and it would crumble. You think the new house would have structural damage, the 150 year old Alsatian Historical Landmark would have no structure left!

II There is a rock wall that was built even before the Alsations came to Quihi. This wall was built by the Indians and has been able to stand up to the elements and weather but it will not be able to stand up to a train plowing through it. The artifacts and history there will be irreplaceable and lost to us forever if this train destroyed it.

● The afore mentioned problems caused by this future train are just a few of the things that would have a significant impact on our life in particular, and the life of others in the future. This train would devastate our lives and cause immense amounts of trouble to us in the way that we would no longer be able to continue in our way of life. My Father and I would not be able to water our grass and watch our cattle grow and reproduce into new generations. The lakes I fish in every sunny day would be gone and the catfish I have been after for years would indeed get away. In fifty years, instead of my parents' grandchildren riding their horses on the open klie fields, there will be an old, broken down rail line with parts of old trains lying beside it. Anyone I know would rather have children on horses than a rusty eyesore in the middle of a green klie field.

*breaking up a community:
those that to move away: have to start a new
life + set of neighbor
their neighbor will lose
good friends.*