

E1-2675
RL

January 14, 2007

Ms. Rini Ghosh
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
1925 K. Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20423-0001

*received
1/23/07*

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34284

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

Please accept this letter as my opposition to granting approval for Southwest Gulf Railroad (SGR) to construct and operate a railroad spur line to serve the proposed Vulcan quarry in Medina County. Should this happen, a Fortune 500 company would have the power of Eminent Domain to utilize for their financial gain. Good for their stockholders, but bad for the landowners and environment they will impact.

I am a landowner bordering the proposed quarry that the SGR will solely serve. I am also a resident of Medina County. Having the quarry as a neighbor does not excite me, but I understand the importance of natural resources. I also understand and applaud the free market system. Having a private company condemn your property to be able to transport strictly their product is not right or a part of the free market system.

Having said that, and if the SGR is a foregone conclusion then I believe they should be held to routes having the very least impact on the environment. The immediate Quihi area has got to be the most environmentally sensitive area within the project study area. It cannot be argued that it does not have great historical and cultural significance. In addition, it has an abundance of jurisdictional waters. Lastly, it is the most heavily populated area. I believe the route should not impact this area at all. The two routes that you have identified as being the least environmentally disruptive both go well east of this area. Of these two routes (the MCEAA Medina Dam Alternative and the Eastern Bypass Route), I would not state a preference, as they both appear to negatively impact residents in the area. Should SGR successfully negotiate and acquire the necessary right of way without needing to exercise

Eminent Domain along these routes, then this may mitigate some of the negative impact.

The last comment I would make concerns the No Action alternative. I know for the purpose of your evaluation you must take SGR and Vulcan at their word that they would proceed with the quarry and truck the material to a rail head at Dunlay. I must also take them at their word, when they have said at previous meetings that they would not develop the quarry without rail transportation. If this is true, the No Action alternative would by far be the least environmentally harmful.

Your thoughtful consideration of this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Coyle', written in a cursive style.

Larry Coyle
601 CR 375
San Antonio, TX 78253

cc: Medina County Environmental Action Association