

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
101 South Main Street
Temple, TX 76501-7602

December 14, 2006

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925K Street, N. W.
Washington DC 20423-0001

FD 34284

10 ccw
12/21/06

Attention: Rini Ghosh, SEA, Project Manager

Subject: LNU-Farmland Protection-
Supplemental Draft EIS
Southwest Gulf Railroad Company
STB Docket No. FD 34284
Medina County, Texas

We have reviewed the information provided in the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (FD 34284) for the proposed construction of the Southwest Gulf Rail line in Medina County, Texas. Our agency is primarily concerned with actions that may impact Important Farmland. We have reviewed this Draft EIS as required by the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA).

We have previously responded to the four alternatives outlined in the Draft EIS dated Nov 5, 2004 and we have previously evaluated the three additional proposed routes outlined in your notice dated March 13, 2006. This data was included in the SDIS. We have reviewed this Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and have no additional comments.

Thanks for the opportunity to reply to this Supplemental Draft EIS and the resource materials you submitted to evaluate this project. We also thank you for recognizing the importance of soils in the planning process. If you have any questions please call James Greenwade in the Soils Section at (254)-742-9960, Fax (254)-742-9859.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James M. Greenwade".

James Greenwade.
Soil Scientist
USDA-NRCS, Temple, Texas