

1-7-05

to: Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
Washington, D.C. 20423
Attn: Rini Ghosh
STB Docket No. FD 34284

EI-1340

received
1/11/05

I have followed the proposals and actions pertaining to the proposal of Vulcan Industries (Southwest Gulf Railroad Company) to construct a railroad through the Quahi area of ~~Medina~~ Medina County because it may have severe adverse impacts on this, my residence area. I have attended both meetings conducted by your office on this subject in Medina County.

At the most recent meeting on Dec. 2, 2004 I voiced my concerns about:

1. Noise that will be caused by train operation, a possible 20 to 32 times a day horn will sound for Road Crossings
2. Noise emanating from the sidetrack operations which will flow over much of the Quahi/New Fountain Area.
3. Increased danger from flooding which will result from Railroad berm construction.
4. Road safety caused by at-grade crossings proposed for the railway at several

- County / state roads.
5. The validity of the SGR Company Claim that it will / can function as a common carrier and thus gain approval to exercise Eminent Domain Authority to build a one-purpose railroad - that being to connect a yet-to-be built gravel quarry to the Union Pacific main line.
 6. SGR's questionable commitment to conduct hydrological and engineering studies of the area before beginning construction and not before STB approval, as it should be.

This will probably be my final input to this decision process and I sincerely hope you will consider my recommendations and that the members of the STB are made fully aware of their decision on this area. Surely the STB members must know that Vulcan / SGR will not collapse in bankruptcy if this decision is delayed until all possible facts are before them for their consideration.

I therefore I recommend:

1. Require Completed hydrological and engineering studies be completed and that all facts pertaining to the studies be provided before the STB renders a final decision.
2. ~~Require~~ completed noise studies as they pertain to the entire Outhi area be completed prior to STB board decision.
3. Require Completed safety and state / county road impact studies prior to the STB decision.

I submit that if these studies are done fairly and the results are made known to all those affected, the STB board members will be in a much better position to make their decision on this proposal. However, if the board members issue a decision before the studies are done -- ~~there~~ will always be question about it's validity.

Sincerely

Carl L Kelby

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