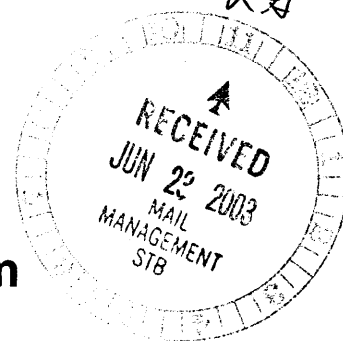


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Questionnaire and Comment Form

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: Orchue R. Herdes

Address: 450 CR 351

City, State, Zip: Hondo, Texas 78861

Telephone: 830-426-2819

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 Letter

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

Thank you for your comments.

First of all the reason why Vulcan Materials bought a rail line is to give them the power to condemn private property for their rail line since property owners paid \$1500 much in a eminent domain suit a million. What happened to private property rights?

Most of this rail line will be in the 100 year flood plain. If they put any type of crossing across the Elm & Quihi creeks, it will be like a Dam and block the water with all types of debris and when this breaks, there will be a wall of water going downstream flooding everything in its path. This happened a few years ago where the Union Pacific Railroad crosses the Hondo creek next to Highway 90.

Since limestone is so plentiful, why don't they go to some area that is not so heavily populated and is not in the 100 year flood plan.

I am concerned about water wells (shallow & Edwards) caving in and/or water losing its purity and building foundations cracking due to constant vibration from trains and blasting. If this occurs, who will pay for the damages?

Hunting is a big economic boost to Medina County. My concern is that land owners along the railroad tracks will lose their hunters and revenue due to wildlife disruption from the trains. Hunters also spend time on their lease throughout the year to enjoy the peace and quiet in this area.

*Archib Gerdes
430 CR 351
Hondo, Texas 78861*