

#E1-275Z
RJ

January 13, 2007

Surface Transportation Board,
ATTN: Rini Ghosh
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Finance Docket #34284
Vulcan Materials/Southwest Gulf Railroad

received
1/29/07

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

My wife Nancy and I moved to the Quihi, Texas area in February 2006. After moving here, we discovered that there was an on-going controversy regarding the Vulcan quarry and a proposed rail line.

Our concerns are parallel to many of the property owners in Quihi. Water, air quality and the rail line are three of our concerns.

I would like to address the rail line. Regardless of which site is chosen, someone will be negatively impacted. Two of the proposed sites (the eastern route) appear to be within 1000 ft. of our property line. Besides the affect it will have on our property value and quality of life, there is a grave safety issue that needs to be addressed. EMS, Police and Fire mobility will be restricted during these crossing times. The profits to be made by this huge company are not worth putting the well being of a single person's life or property in jeopardy.

I am concerned about my neighbors for several miles around who have been farming in this community for decades. A large corporation wants to build a quarry and claims to want to partner with the community surrounding the quarry. This has created a division within the community. Sure, it will be good for some, but not for all.

There are many families that will be negatively affected. And, what concerns me greatly is the possibility that a person's property can be condemned for the profits of others. How is this partnering? In a true and viable partnership there has to be a consensus. There is not a consensus here.

And what about the western routes for the rail line? Our neighbors to our west will be equally impacted, as would the historical importance of Quihi.

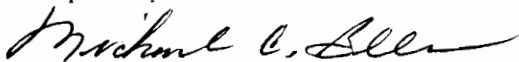
And, I'm confused about the rail line being a common carrier. Realistically, how can this railroad be of any common good for everyone in this community?

I have an acquaintance that lives close to Quihi. He made a comment to me that he was sorry that the rail line would possibly come very close to our home, but the good news was that he was going to profit considerably because of what he could sell to Vulcan. He is very entitled to his opinion of the Vulcan quarry. The rail line will not come close to his residence or impede emergency vehicles. I will continue to respect this person, but I will remain an opponent of the Vulcan rail line. This is just one example of the division that has been created by this proposed Vulcan quarry.

Please be considerate of all of our valid concerns and livelihoods when making a final decision regarding the proposed rail line in Quihi. I don't know of a single opponent of this issue that stands to benefit or financially profit from this project.

Our postal station is in Hondo, Texas, but we live in Quihi, Texas.

Respectfully,



Michael C. Beers
3120 CR 4516
Hondo, Texas 78861