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DAW

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January 3, 2008

David B. Casteel
San Antonio District Engineer
Texas Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 29928
San Antonio, TX 78229-0928

Re: Southwest Gulf Railroad

Dear Mr. Casteel:

We have recently obtained a copy of a December 10, 2007 letter addressed to you by Robert Fitzgerald of the Medina County Environmental Action Association, Inc. concerning his request for a public meeting to obtain citizen input on the crossing of FM 2676 by the rail line planned for construction by Southwest Gulf Railroad in Medina County. The MCEAA letter was sent to many officials, but not to us. We have also now seen your December 21 reply noting that the Surface Transportation Board is still assessing the SGR line and stating your intention to schedule a public meeting once that process is completed.

We understand that the environmental review process being conducted by the STB's environmental staff is nearing completion, which will result in the issuance of a Final EIS. That Final EIS may recommend that the rail line could be built along one or two different alternative alignments, both of which are further east than the line as originally proposed. That recommendation will then go to the Board itself for a final decision. The Board could approve one or more alignments for construction. SGR would then decide along which approved alignment to construct the rail line, if more than one is approved by the Board. For your information, I have enclosed a map that shows the alignments currently under active consideration at the STB and the point at which each would cross FM 2676.

We anticipate that the Final EIS and Board decision will adopt a recommendation from the Supplemental Draft EIS requiring that SGR consult with Texas DOT about the crossing of FM 2676 and adhere to reasonable conditions imposed by Texas DOT. Needless to say, it is our intention to consult with your agency about that crossing once the Board process has come to an end and before SGR makes any final decision about which alignment to construct, should the Board approve more than one alignment. We recognize that SGR will need to enter into a crossing agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation relative to FM 2676. We also are rally aware of the importance of providing for a safe crossing.