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R91

January 13, 2007

Jerriene R. Bishop
241 CR 253
Mico, TX 78056

*received
1/29/07*

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Attention: Rini Ghosh

Fax No. (202) 565-9000
Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34284

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

I live about ½ mile north of the proposed quarry site and have several concerns about the proposed rail line and quarry. There are many reasons why I oppose construction of both the quarry and railroad in this area — not only is it a poor location for a quarry but Vulcan has proven to be deceptive and uncooperative in addressing many issues that could lessen the negative impact on this quiet community. I maintain that the proposed quarry and the railroad are “connected actions” and refuse to accept the notion that the quarry is simply ‘cumulative impact’ of the railroad. We moved to this area to retire and enjoy our families in the peace and quiet of a rural setting and don’t want to see it destroyed by airborne dust, noise and blasting, myriads of trucks on our roads that are already in poor repair, railroad crossings, and most of all, serious threats to the drinking water that every family must have to survive.

In 1990, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission designated the Trinity region to be a Priority Groundwater Management Area (PGMA), defined as an area where a critical water shortage is occurring or can be expected to occur in the next 25 years. I currently have a well in the Trinity aquifer that, due to the current drought conditions, barely produces enough water for the family. In fact, I am on a waiting list to get a new well drilled later this month. Not a small expense I might add.

With the growth in residential development I see in the area, and knowing that Vulcan schedules to use at least 6,000 acre-feet of water annually, I wonder how long it will be before our water supply simply disappears forever. I thought that Vulcan planned to extract water only from the Edwards aquifer but was made aware that in a letter dated Oct 12, 2006, Mr. Coburn, attorney for SGR, admitted that in the future, Vulcan’s huge appetite for water might lead them to the Trinity as well. My question to you is “Where does it stop”? How many lives can we allow to be trampled for the sake of a company profiting by raping our natural resources?

I am concerned that Vulcan plans a fuel storage facility in the Elm Creek flood plain. Doesn't this seem to be an insane idea? What happens to our drinking water during the next flood?

If construction of the proposed railroad is allowed, the STB must require them to make the improvements needed to minimize impact to the community. Specifically:

- Overpass over FM2676
- Widening/asphalt surfaces to CR351, CR 353, CR354, CR4516 with bridge, and CR265.

There are already eight quarries in Medina County — using an undisclosed amount of our precious water. Just how many more such operations will the State allow before they see the light?

Sincerely,

Jerriene R.. Bishop