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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: Cynthia Lindsey

Address: 190 CR 4512

City, State, Zip: Hondo TX 78861

Telephone: 830-741-4041

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

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

Thank you for your comments.

Subject: Southwest Gulf Railroad Company (SGR)
Construction and operation Exemption, Medina County, Texas
The environmental issues associated with SGR's proposal to build and operate a new,
Seven-mile rail line in Medina County, Texas.

This proposed rail line would be located and run through my front yard. It will divide my property in half. It will divide and destroy my twenty year old Pecan Orchards and their underground irrigation systems. The railroad will dissect my irrigated hay fields and cattle grazing pastures. The tanks (water ponds) will be on one side of the tracks and the grass will be on the other. The rail line will be within 500 yards of my Edwards Well and will cause damage to the 1,500 feet of well casing and the vibrations can also cause sediments and pump malfunction.

All of these items mentioned would have a significant impact on the value of my property and, more importantly, it will be a major impact on my livelihood. This railroad will destroy my ranch and I will not be able to support my family.

This economic loss is sad, but what I find the saddest is the horrible cruel impact this rail line will have on the historic and cultural antiques of Quihi. The destruction of the homes and artifact in the immediate area is going to be felt for many years to come.

I own an Alsatian Sunday House. It was built in 1850 and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the Department of the Interior. It has been named a State of Texas Historical Landmark and it has been recognized by the San Antonio Conservation Society as an important historical building. This home has stood for over 150 years and it is tragic that anyone would think that a rail line is more important, and therefore justifies the destruction of this building.

The construction methods of 150 years ago were to pile up rocks about two to three feet thick and around eight feet high then smear some mortar on the outside of the rocks. A wooden roof structure, fastened together with wooden nails, was then balanced on top of the rocks. If you think a building of this type could withstand the vibrations of a high-powered diesel railroad engine you would be wrong.

My historic home, along with several dozen others, have stood in Quihi for over 150 years. The installation of a railroad will destroy whatever is left of that history.

Located on my property is a very old stone wall, I have been told it was put there by the Indians, it appears to be much older than my house. The proposed rail line will plow right through the stone wall. On the property adjacent to me hundreds of Indian artifacts have been dug up in the past few years, many of which have been dated to be 5,000 to 10,000 years old. Have any studies ever been made to determine the quality of these sites?

The potential environmental impacts of SGR's proposal are vast. The economic and more importantly the historic and cultural losses to Quihi are enormous. The loss and degradation in this area is a shame and should not be allowed to happen. There will be no future for the people of Quihi and their descendents if there is no past.

Respectfully submitted by:

Glenn and Cynthia Lindsey
190 CR 4512
Hondo, Texas 78861
(830) 741-4041