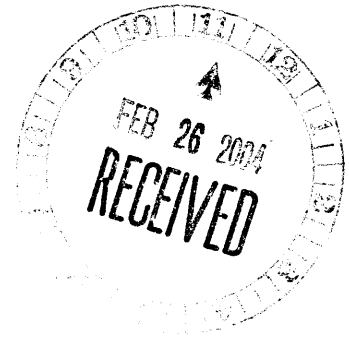


FD 34284

21 FEB 2004

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
CASE CONTROL UNIT
1925 K. STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20423-0001
ATTN: MS. RINI GHOSH



DEAR MS. GHOSH,

I AM WRITING IN REFERENCE TO AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (FD 34284) PROPOSAL OF VULCAN MATERIAL (BASED IN ALABAMA) TO CONSTRUCT AND BUILD A GRAVEL QUARRY AND CONSTRUCT A RAILWAY AND ROADS TO TRANSPORT MATERIAL.

I WISH TO DIRECT COMMENTS TO THE ABOVE PROJECT(S) TO THE EIS REFERENCE TO PROPOSAL. MY FAMILY HAS LIVED IN MEDINA OAKS SUBDIVISION FOR 20 YEARS, I AM A RETIRED SCHOOL TEACHER MY WIFE IS SOON TO RETIRE FROM THE V.A. HOSP. SYSTEM, MY SON IS TO SOON GRADUATE FROM H.S. WE HAVE LIVED HERE SINCE 1984.

I WILL START BY SAYING THIS QUARRY & RAIL PROPOSAL IS A POTENTIAL DIASTER FOR THIS AREA AND THOSE WHO "LIVE" HERE, VULCAN CO. HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT DECEPTIVE AS TO DISCLOSURE OF IMPACT OF THIS AREA IN THEIR AGGRESSIVE PURSUIT TO RECEIVE A PERMIT FOR ANOTHER QUARRY IN MEDINA COUNTY.

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IN THE PROPOSAL BY VULCAN CO REGARDING THE QUARRY, SGR RAIL & TRUCK TRANSPORTATION OF MATERIAL, VULCAN OMITTED THE LOCATION OF TWO ESTABLISHED SUBDIVISIONS [MEDINA OAKS AND (ROCKY CREEK)] SOON TO BE ANOTHER IN MEDINA OAKS AREA. ANOTHER NOTEWORTHY SITE IS THE MEDINA LAKE DAM, THIS WAS BUILT IN 1912 - THE DAM IS CONCRETE ONLY AND WAS BASICALLY HAND BUILT. THIS DAM WAS BUILT TO PROTECT CASTROVILLE (DOWNSTREAM FROM MEDINA DAM) FROM FLOODING. IN OCT. 2001 DUE TO HEAVY & EXTENDED RAINS CAUSED THE LAKE TO POSSIBLY GO OVER THE DAM; THE CITY OF CASTROVILLE WAS EVACUATED, THE MAYOR OF SAN ANTONIO CALLED FOR EVACUATION OF AREAS ALONG MEDINA RIVER IN BEXAR COUNTY (SOUTH) THE QUESTION WAS INTEGRITY OF THE DAM - THIS PROPOSED QUARRY IS ABOUT 5 MILES WEST OF THIS DAM - DEEP BLASTING AND HEAVY TRANSPORTATION WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE AN EFFECT. THROUGH THIS AREA THERE ARE NUMEROUS FAULT LINES THAT COULD/WILL BE AFFECTED. WE HAVE TWO PRISTINE WATER SOURCES, THE EDWARDS AQUIFER AND GLENROSE AQUIFER, RECENTLY EDWARDS UNDERGROUND DIST STATED AS ONE OF THEIR NEWER REGULATIONS THERE ARE TO BE NO QUARRY ACTIVITY OVER AQUIFER ZONES

THE RESIDENTS OF THIS AREA RELY ON THESE AQUIFERS FOR THEIR WATER WELLS — CONSTANT BLASTING / RAIL TRAFFIC & HEAVY EQUIPMENT WILL HAVE AN AFFECT ON WELL CASINGS & SEPTIC LINES (SEPTIC LINE CONTAMINATION OF GROUNDWATER) THESE ITEMS NOT EVEN CONCERNING THE HUGE AMOUNT OF AQUIFER WATER CONSUMED IN GRAVEL MATERIAL PROCESSING AND CONSTANT USE OF LUBRICANTS OVER AQUIFERS.

AIR QUALITY IN THIS AREA WILL SUFFER TREMENDOUSLY DURING DRY TIMES OF THE YEAR THE VULCAN QUARRY ON FM 1283 (MEDINA COUNTY) LEAVES ENTIRE COUNTRYSIDE "COVERED" WITH WHITE POWDERED LIMESTONE. VULCAN PROPOSES HUNDREDS OF RAILCARS AND/OR TRUCKS OPERATING 24 HOURS A DAY. THE PROPOSED ROUTES THROUGH RESIDENTIAL & FARM LAND SOME OF WHICH TO BE CONDEMNED AFTER VULCAN'S PURCHASE OF SGR RAILWAY FOR THIS PURPOSE. THIS ROAD SYSTEM IN THIS AREA WAS BUILT FOR NORMAL FARM TO MARKET TRAFFIC AND WOULD CREAT A TREMENDOUS SAFETY ISSUE. ROADS THROUGHOUT, IN AND AROUND, ARE SUBJECT TO FLOODING. CHANGING OF ROADWAY WILL AFFECT VARIOUS AREAS OF RICH HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE THROUGHOUT THIS AREA FROM MEDINA LAKE TO CASTROVILLE & QUATH AREA.

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RECENTLY PRESIDENT BUSH'S WIFE AWARDED
AND RECOGNIZED THE CASTROVILLE AREA
AS A RICH HISTORICAL AREA. FACTORS OF HEAVY
TRANSPORTATION & QUARRY WILL HAVE A NEGATIVE
AFFECT ON THESE AREAS.

OUR HOME IS DIRECTLY ABOVE THE PROPOSED
QUARRY SITE - THE THOUGHT OF A CONSTANT
"24" HOURS A DAY GRAVEL QUARRY - CREATING
NOISE, WATER, HEALTH, DUST, & SAFETY ISSUES
IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. VULCAN SEEMS TO ATTEMPT
TO MAKE AN ISSUE THAT IS MISLEADING;
AS TO A SPARSELY POPULATED AREA WITH
NO INHERENT ENVIRONMENT CONCERNS
FOR ANYONE - THIS IS WRONG AND
NOT ACCURATE. THIS COMPANY IS ATTEMPTING
TO INFRINGE ON PEOPLES QUALITY OF LIFE
AND THEIR PERSONAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION,

SINCERELY,



RAY H. WARDWELL

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