

Portenier Family

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#E1-2736
RGA

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
Washington, DC 20423
Attention: Rini Ghosh
STB Finance Docket No. 34284

received
1/29/07

Ms. Ghosh,

We are residents of Qhihi affected by Vulcan Material's request for a railroad permit. Our home is located on the western rim of the proposed quarry. We have reviewed the SDEIS and have the following comments:

1. We are adamantly against the railroad in any shape, form or fashion. This is simply not the right area to put a railroad. It crosses too many county roads at dangerous places and too many low-lying water sheds. Also, it is obvious that Vulcan Materials is only applying for this permit for the ability to condemn private property. Our tax dollars pay you to protect the environment and citizens from this type of deception. We have seen the financials for Vulcan – they have deep, deep pockets. Now we all know the reason is because they make their profits by stealing other people's property. Why should the property owners who have purchased and own their land have to give it up so that Vulcan can use it for their financial gain?
2. Should the Surface Transportation Board decide in favor of the railroad despite the overwhelming opposition, then STB should restrict Vulcan (SGR) to the route of least impact on the environment, traffic safety, landowners and historical resources. We believe the MCEAA Medina Dam Alternative route should be the route chosen (if one has to be chosen). According to the SDEIS, it impacts prime farm land to a lesser degree, it is less likely to be affected by the development of karst features, has less overall impacts to existing land uses and fewer impacts to cultural resources.

We are only asking that STB decide on the best interests of all parties involved. Vulcan can put a quarry anywhere; we have all we own in our land. If you grant this railroad, our property will be devalued and will cost us more than can ever be mitigated.

Regards,

The Portenier Family

Ted, Robin, Paige, Brentlee & Treyton Portenier