

#E1-2743
RD

January 16, 2007

Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Rini Ghosh
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Received
1/29/07

Re: Finance Docket #34284

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

Thank you for allowing me to express my feelings and opinions as to whether the Surface Transportation Board should grant Vulcan Materials and their railroad, Southwest Gulf Railroad, the right to operate as a common carrier. The last thing the citizens living in the Elm Creek area need is a rail line running through the center of the area. Railroad trestles and berms can only enhance the destructive effect of a flood.

This is one of the most environmentally and historical areas of the Texas Edwards Plateau. This area is rich in early man's relics and artifacts. The homes and buildings of the first European settlers still stand all over this area. Some of the descendents of these early settlers still own their great-great-great grandparents original grants. They would not, at any price, sell or relinquish any parcel of their land, especially to a private enterprise solely to profit their shareholders. Besides these issues, there is the pollution problem to air, soil and water. The Edwards Plateau area of Texas is one of the most environmentally sensitive areas of the state. There are numerous places where a quarry and rail line would not present the potential damage this project presents.

Even though Vulcan Materials has purchased a few properties in an area they deem as the preferred route, this should not be a determining factor as to whether the SGR would be granted common carrier status. And, should they be granted common carrier status, where will they be allowed to run this line?

The safety aspects of this rail line, concerning the rural citizen of the Quihi area, have never been fully addressed by Vulcan Materials. It seems that this only takes place after injuries or death occurs at road crossings and vehicle junctions. The current population growth in this area, and in the future, makes this a real concern.

As long as there is a resource to be exploited and big profits to be made, the private land owner has no property rights. Private enterprise will see to it that the opposing land owner gets stuck with either property loss or loss of property values and the destruction and pollution of his environment. The fact that most of the citizens living in this project area are against a rail line, especially one that serves only one industry should mean something. Also, the fact that a few citizens living in the project area, have stated that they think the project will be wonderful as long as the rail line doesn't run on their

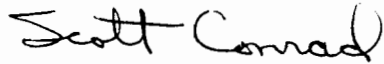
property, should also mean something.

Vulcan Materials has said numerous times in the past seven years that they can function quite well without a rail line. If they start operating a quarry, north of Quihi, the majority of the Quihi citizens much prefer that they do so without a rail line. But, again, I feel

"THIS IS NOT THE PLACE TO PUT A QUARRY OR A RAILROAD".

Thank you again for allowing an area land owner to comment to STB on the SGR permit.

Medina County Land Owner,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Conrad". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "C" at the end.

Scott Conrad

Medina County Land Owner