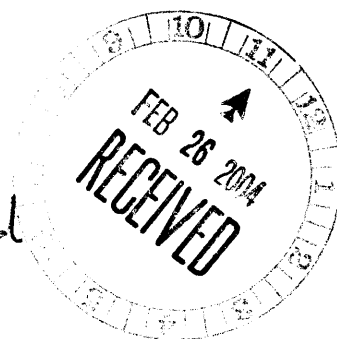


February 21, 2004

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



Attention: Rini Ghosh

Re: Finance Docket No. 34284

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

In response to the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, I am submitting the following to be considered in the formal Scoping process.

I believe Vulcan's proposed quarry and proposed SGR rail line, regardless of where the railroad is constructed, are connected actions, and should be studied in the same Environmental Impact Statement. The study should include direct impacts and alternatives to both projects, including no quarry and no rail line at all.

I am ~~Jim~~ H. Walsh, a 57 year old recent retiree from the Texas Department of Transportation with over 40 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Texas.

For years I dreamed of the day that I would one day return to my now deceased parents historical homestead in Quilb, Tx. My mother and father worked for Shawnee for more than ten years to buy 2 acres of land with a home that was originally built in 1856 and was badly in need of repairs. Alfred and Irene Walsh worked for many years with their own two hands making improvements as they could afford them. Since they never achieved an income above the poverty level in their lifetime this was a slow, long, and difficult struggle. This homestead was the only thing my parents ever owned and was the only thing that they had to leave their only child. There are no words to convey just how heartbreaking it would be to see my parents many, many years of hard work damaged and or destroyed by the proposed blasting in the quarry or by flooding caused by damming the Quilb creek and other creeks. I challenge any member of Vulcan to stand by and watch as they see Their parents' legacy destroyed. Its not so easy is it when its your own backyard? I hope and pray that you will consider the destructive impact that I believe this proposed quarry would have not only to my property, but to others as well. Please feel free to contact me at my home No. 210-674-6773 or my cellphone 210-364-6149 to further discuss my concern.

Respectfully,
 Jim H. Walsh