

Staci Boehme
455 CR 452
Hondo TX 78861

#E1-109
R21

- I. Name and address
- II. Position: rural community we don't want commercialization
- III. Explanations / Reasons
 - A. Safety of our Children
 - 1. Roads: travel daily by bus and car:
 - 2. Railroad near home
 - B. Contamination of Drinking Water
 - 1. Edwards Aquifer
 - 2. Shallow Wells
 - C. Flooding
 - 1. Rail will create berms or dams: significantly change flow of water
 - 2. Creeks coming together
 - D. Vulcan as a profit making company should not be able to condemn private property

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My name is Staci Boehme. Along with my husband and our four children, I live in New Fountain. I believe Vulcan's proposed quarry and railroad could be one of the worst things that ever came to our county mainly because of safety, contamination and flooding issues. We have chosen to raise our family in the county. I am not interested in a few more jobs and more tax dollars at the cost of commercializing our small rural community. Would these additional tax dollars even cover the loss in property values all along the proposed railroad and quarry? Would they be enough to maintain and repair the damages to the FM roads that Vulcan will cause?

The Farm to Market roads we travel everyday will be more dangerous with Vulcan's many trucks and with railroad crossings. Six miles away from our home, an entire family was killed when an 18wheeler (which hauled limestone) plowed into their vehicle. I can't help but think this could happen to another family in our small community. I also have concerns about air quality and noise issues.

The possibility of our house being flooded will increase due to the damming of water the railroad will cause. The railroad will change the natural flow of surrounding creeks which all accumulate around our house. So far we have not had water in our house but what assurances can Vulcan give us that a railroad will not significantly change existing flood planes? And if it does what (if anything) will Vulcan do?

Another issue relates to how all these changes will impact the family farming operation. Will all crossings or bridges be wide enough for equipment to be transported from Rio Medina to Hondo? Or from Quihi to Castroville?

Another area of concern, relates to the possible contamination of our most precious resource. The area Vulcan will use as a quarry is a recharge area to the Edwards Aquifer. Medina Lake, which is approximately 3-4 miles from the proposed quarry site is the biggest recharge to the Edwards Aquifer. What impact will removing all this limestone have on the flow of water into the aquifer? Contamination has to be more likely with less limestone to filter the water. Could blasting cause a main vein of our underground river be cut-off? What impact will quarry have on the Edwards Aquifer water moving from Medina Lake to the west? . Many residents utilize shallow wells for their primary water source. How would a hazardous spill impact these wells?

We were one of many area residents who put restrictive covenants without any monetary gains on their land deeds to prohibit railroad and conveyer belts. Some of these people chose to participate in the covenant even though Vulcan had offered to purchase their land at a premium. We have sent a strong message to Vulcan, this immediate rural area along the proposed railroad does not want a railroad. Our immediate rural area, excluding Castroville and Hondo, will feel the greatest impact of a railroad. One has to wonder where our democracy is heading when a major corporation has the power to condemn land for the sole purpose of making a profit.