

November 20, 2004

**STB Docket No. FD 34284
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC 20423-0001**

Attn: Rini Ghosh

Dear Ms. Ghosh,

In regards to the above referenced docket, I would like to express my appreciation for a thorough job you, your staff, and your Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has done on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

It appears that all points raised by people opposing the quarry and proposed rail way have been addressed and proper mitigants to any issues were given to correct those issues.

My family has owned the land, which will be part of the proposed quarry for many years. When Vulcan first approached my wife and I, we had our reservations, however after doing research on the company and touring other sites, we decided that it was time to do something with the land and Vulcan being a Fortune 500 company was the best fit.

The opposition has sent letters including letters to congressmen and senators expressing issues with property rights along the proposed rail way. However they have continually blasted the landowners who are working with Vulcan on the proposed quarry site. What about our property rights to do what we want with our land? They have also brought up condemnation of land to you and the government officials, however has failed to mention that they misled landowners into thinking that if they would place deed restrictions on their land forbidding railroads from crossing their land, that it would give them better bargaining power. Southwest Gulf Railroad along with Vulcan has done everything humanly possible to work with landowners to purchase the right of way at above market price.

Railing the aggregate 7-miles to the connection point with Union Pacific is far more environmentally friendly and tremendously safer than trucking the aggregate to the connection point. As I understand it, Vulcan is prepared to truck the aggregate if the railway site is disallowed.

The opposition also refuses to acknowledge the economic boost this will bring to Medina County and surrounding areas. The jobs the site will create, the taxes it will generate for the county and Hondo Independent School District, and the revenue generation for businesses, which will be working with Vulcan and Southwest Gulf Railroad are far more economically beneficial than new subdivisions and trailer parks, which would be a drain on the county's infrastructure.

In closing, please don't let the oppositions scare tactics, misleading comments and misstatements of fact sway your decision to recommend the proposed railway as the best environmental choice.

Yours truly,


Clovis Boehme