

#E1-2798
R9

January 26, 2007

Surface Transportation Board
Attention: Rini Ghosh
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20423-001

received
2/2/07

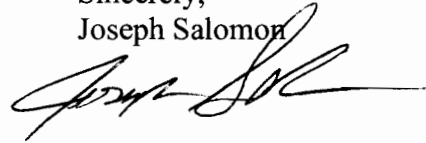
Re: Finance Docket #34284
Vulcan Materials Co. / Southwest Gulf Railroad

Hello and good afternoon Ms. Ghosh I would like to comment on the upcoming decision that is going to be made on whether to grant the permission for a rail to the proposed quarry site in Medina County. I live approximately 4000 feet from the quarry site and the proposed rail line that is in discussion. We have been against this quarry and rail line since we moved out here in February 2000. The thought of a rail line and quarry running 24 hours a day 365 days a year is not our idea of a good thing. The Vulcan Corporation has shown its willingness and ability to give inaccurate data to you and all the other governmental agencies that it is working through to get this quarry. I have stated in the beginning that if you must put a quarry in this area COMPENSATE the property owners that do not want you there by creating a buffer of at least a 1 1/2 miles from the rail and quarry area so that noise and dust will not be an issue for anyone that is in that buffer area. The wells that are in this area are as shallow as 250 feet in the EDWARDS AQUAFIER. The **silica quartz** alone is more than I want to risk for my family which we will have to breathe on a daily basis till we die. The fact that you will allow them to operate during a 24 hour period means that not only will the fear of **silica quartz dust, contaminated water from fuel and nitrates in the well water and dust in the filtration system in the house, we will have to deal with a train pulling and pushing box cars for loading all hours of the night.** When do you expect the rest of us to sleep? They say that this rail will not bother the environment or the quality of life and I beg to differ. The routes that are in question are all going to change this area forever when it comes to the environmental change that will occur when this quarry starts to crush the amount of limestone that will be required for this quarry to be **profitable**. The fact that Vulcan says that they will only run around 150 trucks on the county road along with the rail cars is also a lie. The quarries in our area that are owned by Vulcan on an average have over 300 loads of aggregate base loaded and hauled by other carriers besides their own loads on a daily basis. **THERE WILL BE OVER 400 LOADS MINIMUM GOING THROUGH THE COUNTY ROADS** even if there is a rail line from this quarry to support the south west corridor area. It will be the closest quarry for base for any **private carrier south and west of this area**. That is why they are working with Judge Barden to make County roads leading into and out of the area one way so that the quarry can be more efficient. The fact that they will alter the life of all the residents in

that area is not a factor that they are considering. The fact is this is a win win for **VULCAN** and there is nothing in this that will better **the environment, our tax base or the lives of our community. I am asking that you deny them their rail route. Everyone to include Medina County will be better off if they do not put a rail and quarry in this area. There are other industries that are cleaner, environmentally safer, and economically better for this area.**

In closing I just ask that if you must agree to give a rail to SGR then make them be the good neighbor that they pride themselves on being and have them create the 1 ½ radius buffer so that the impact around the quarry and rail area will not bother anyone but the 20-35 workers that Vulcan will hire to run this quarry. Thank you for your time and effort in allowing us to voice our concerns to you

Sincerely,
Joseph Salomon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Salomon', written over the typed name.