

#E1-2750
R21

January 13, 2007

Finance Docket # 34284

received
1/29/07

Dear Ms. Rutson:

My comments on the proposed railroad are the following:

First of all, I do not want a quarry in this beautiful area that will no longer be beautiful. I also do not want a railroad in my back yard or in anybody elses. However, if this had to be, if we are doomed to have it, then it (railroad) should go where it will cause the least flooding or no flooding, the least disruption to what wilderness we still have left. Our animals and trees will be heavily impacted by this limestone dust.

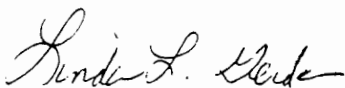
We too will have no choice but to breathe in this dusty air, our wells will run dry and we will have no water.

It is important for us and for those we leave behind that we protect the air, aquifer/water, wilderness land and wild animals and cattle. This is our life's role here in Quihi. If we dont, who will protect our precious resources. Have you heard a whippoorwill? Someday we never will.

I cannot understand why someone who doesn't live in Quihi has some say as to where the railroad will go here in Quihi. For example why should D'Hanis or Devine be asked to send letters for a quarry and railraod here in Quihi.

The Quarry dilemma has caused pain, conflict and division in our families, with our friends and neighbors. No one wants the railroad in their backyard. No one wants to live with the disruption and danger.

Furthermore, the flooding in the Quihi area will affect at least 40-50 families. If we have no other choice, the Eastern route has no flooding possibilities.



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Comal official proposes a quarry commission

It would provide public input to operators on a regular basis.

BY ROGER CROTEAU
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

NEW BRAUNFELS — Comal County Judge Danny Scheel proposed creating a quarry commission at a public meeting Wednesday night to meet periodically with representatives of three local limestone quarries to discuss residents' complaints.

"Rather than everyone carrying their own torch, if we come together as a group, we can get more done," Scheel suggested. "And I know from talking to these guys (quarry officials) they are willing to listen."

Scheel said the county commissioners could appoint the committee, if the district attorney says the Commissioners Court has that power.

Darrell Brownlow, director of geology at the Cemex quarry, said he welcomes the public input.

"You want to complain," he said. "Well, what is that going to get you? It's going to get you a lot. We are going to listen to that feedback and it will effect change."

About 125 neighbors of the three quarries peppered the officials from the Cemex, Martin Marietta and Chemical Lime quarries with questions and com-

plaints at the Oak Run School on Wednesday night.

Residents worried that vibrations from the blasts can damage their home foundations and wells, and dust from the operations could harm their health.

"A lot of us feel you are not good neighbors," said one man, who refused to give his name. "This is a wonderful community and I've been here a long time. And it's maybe not as wonderful as it used to be."

The quarry officials explained steps they have taken to reduce dust emissions from their plants and the care they take to keep ground vibrations from the blasting to a minimum. They said it is difficult for residents to distinguish the "air blast" caused by the pressure wave from the exploding rock, from ground vibrations, which are more likely to damage property.

While they try to limit the air blast effect as well, it can be difficult, because wind, cloud cover, temperature inversions, the direction of the wall being blasted and many other factors can greatly effect how much air blast neighbors experience.

"Having cracks in your masonry is a natural phenomenon," Brownlow said. "I live 35 miles from a quarry and I have them. I'm not saying it's impossible, but living near a quarry does not exempt you from natural reasons for having that problem."

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