

#E1-2659

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Charles and Patricia S. Bigelow
905 Eventide Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78209
chig2646@sbcglobal.net

Surface Transportation Board
Rini Ghosh
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

January 16, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

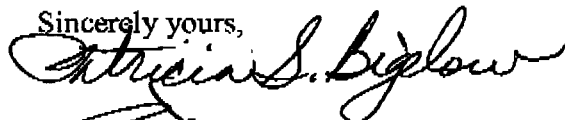
We are very opposed to the construction of a quarry in the vicinity of Quihi, Texas for several reasons. First of all, we are concerned about the environmental impact on the aquifer which lies just beneath the proposed quarry. This aquifer supplies water to a large portion of the population of South Texas, and we cannot afford to jeopardize one of our main sources of clean water. Second, the area north of Dunlay towards the proposed aquifer is very prone to flooding. We feel that the construction of a railroad spur through that area would cause a worsening of the flooding of roads, fields and residences. Third, we are in favor of preserving the historic farms and houses that give the Quihi area its unique, irreplaceable character. Several of the proposed railroad routes would destroy many of these historic places.

Our ranch is located just north of County Road 252, and the noise and air pollution caused by a large quarry would adversely affect our lives in many ways. We spend every weekend there and plan to retire there soon.

We urge you to help us preserve this unique pastoral area of Medina County, Texas by refusing to grant permission for a railroad spur to the site of Vulcan's proposed quarry. If you must grant permission, we urge you to choose the Medina Dam Alternative Route approved by MCEAA or else the Eastern Bypass Route. We also urge that the proposed fuel storage and maintenance area be moved further south, out of the Elm Creek floodplain.

Thank you very much for your help on this critical issue.

Sincerely yours,



Charles and Patricia S. Bigelow