

12/6/2004

#E1-1268
R21

To: Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
Washington, DC 20423
Attn: Rini Ghosh
STB Finance Docket 34284
Southwest Gulf Railroad Company
Medina County, Texas

DEC 16 2004
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Comments:

I hereby ask that the Surface Transportation Board and Section of Environmental Analysis Adopt the Draft EIS for Finance Docket 34284, Southwest Gulf Railroad and approve the building of such proposed Railroad, according to the Mitigation Measures listed.

The applicant's Voluntary Mitigation Measures VM1 and VM2 subsections (a) through (h), and VM3, VM4, and VM5.

SEA's Recommended Mitigation with cooperation using approved Engineering and design methods with VM and SGR concerning the following:

Transportation and Traffic Safety -(1) thru (10).

Public Health and Safety- (11).

Worker Health and Safety- (12).

Groundwater- (13) thru (19).

Surface Water- (20) thru (29).

Wetlands- (30) thru (32).

Biological Resources- (33) thru (36).

Air Quality- (37) and (38).

Land Use- (39).

Noise- (40).

Vibration- (41) thru (43).

Recreational and Visual Resources- (44).

Cultural Resources- (45).

Karst Features- (46) and (47).

It is my belief that SEA has worked long and hard to address all concerns listed and will approve the building of the SGR according to the documentation of facts found in this investigation.

It is my concern that the STB and SEA section should not become involved in Quarry operations that were brought up in the Public Meeting. The operations of the Quarry are governed and will be held to strict standards according to good mining practices. Therefore the requests for studies on the Medina Dam, Air pollution, Water pollution and environmental problems that could be encountered during the operation of the Quarry does not fall under the jurisdiction of the STB.

The STB should not be involved questions on Monies generated for taxes. One Statement made was that because of the increased population caused by more employment would not generate enough taxes for the costs involved to educate the pupils. There is a mistake in the mathematics. There was no mention made that the increased population was going to pay school and county taxes, only that the extra tax generated by the quarry and railroad would not cover the increased population.

Will Carter of the BMA had a request that Vulcan make a study of the Medina and Diversion Dams for their integrity. BMA has been advised by preliminary studies on these two dams that these studies should be made. This is before and not related to the proposed quarry and railroad in Medina County. All BMA is looking for is a free ride for someone else to do the work that they are responsible for.

Again, I applaud the SEA for the in depth study, derived from the comments of the people attending from the first public meeting received by and after February 26, 2004. You have acted on all 47 issues derived, thoroughly and unbiased. Thank you for your efforts to address any and all concerns.



Wayne R. Balzen
905 Oakridge
Pleasanton, Texas 78064

Email-waynebalzen@evl.net