

#E1-1263

RA

Mrs. A. H. Guerra
422 CR 421
Hondo, Texas 78861

December 3, 2004

Ms. Rini Ghosh
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
Washington, DC 20423

RE: STB Docket #FD 34284

received
12/14/04

Dear Ms. Ghosh,

Thank you for attending the meeting last night (December 2nd) at the Medina County Fairgrounds Hall, along with the representatives of the Surface Transportation Board and Vulcan Materials. The presentation was very helpful. The fact that several representatives of Vulcan Materials were there to explain their proposal, and to take public comments, was a sign that they were trying to educate and also listen to the folks in Hondo. This irreversible change to our lives merits further study as to its effect on the environment and the people and homes surrounding it.

My objections to the proposed quarry are as follows:

- a. **The loud sounds, polluted air smells, and traffic problems** will be very difficult to tolerate.
- b. **The water that we drink will be polluted by run-off from the quarry and the railroad. The consequences, both for wildlife, and for humans, will be both disastrous and irreversible.** The Edwards Aquifer, very close to what would be the bottom of the quarry, is extremely permeable, and absorbs whatever pollutants are in roads and fields, along with any rain.
- c. **When there is flooding, it will be very destructive to the environment.** The roads aren't built to take a lot of truck traffic. There is a lot of flooding in this area.
- d. **Blasting from the quarry, along a fault line, could disrupt the Medina Dam and create enormous flooding and loss of life. It will also be a safety threat to those in the area.**

Examples of ignorant industrialization are rampant in countries such as China, where there has been little or no effort to preserve the environment. Quihi is an old part of Hondo, which will lose its charm, and become dirty and foul, if a quarry and railroad are built. The thought is unbearable to many of us living in this area.

Let us consider the environment as the precious gift that it is, and not let it become an ash heap. It is wrong to allow this aggressive company free reign.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,
Anne Guerra