

Appendix D
Miscellaneous

Conference Call Notes

Conference Call Notes

FD 34284, Third-Party Contracting Conference Call

Date: March 22, 2006

Attendees: Mr. Tom Ransdell (SGR)
Mr. David Coburn (SGR)
Ms. Jaya Zyman Ponebshek (URS)
Ms. Rini Ghosh (SEA)

Items Discussed:

- URS had kick-off meeting and team members have started working on the SDEIS.
- URS cut and fill team met with Ronny Gadban (SGR engineer) on 3/21/06 to discuss SGR's cut and fill analysis.
- URS cut and fill team in the field today.
- SGR will make sure that URS is sent a copy of the electronic land ownership maps that SGR has prepared of the project area.
- SGR is preparing a formal response to the cut and fill questions submitted by SEA on 2/27/06 and plans on submitting this response next week.
- SGR may be able to provide more detailed information about the number of nighttime train operations.
- SGR expressed concern that perhaps not all potentially affected landowners (those whose properties would be directly crossed by one or more of the seven alternative rail routes) are on SEA's mailing list. After some discussion of this issue, it was decided that after receiving the electronic land ownership maps, URS will determine how many potentially affected landowners there are and SEA will attempt to contact these landowners to find out if they want to be on the mailing list or else automatically include them on the mailing list. SEA will also discuss further internally about the possibility of posting advertisements in the Hondo Anvil Herald and Medina Valley Times to invite interested people to be added to the mailing list.
- The next conference call was scheduled for March 31, 2006 at 10 am Eastern Time/9 am Central Time.

FD 34284, Third-Party Contracting Conference Call

Date: March 31, 2006

Attendees: Mr. David Coburn (SGR)
Ms. Jaya Zyman Ponebshek (URS)
Ms. Rini Ghosh (SEA)

Items Discussed:

- Following up on the concerns expressed regarding the mailing list, SEA will attempt to make sure that landowners whose properties would be crossed by one or more of the routes are on the mailing list. Due to the amount of local awareness of the project and the environmental review process, SEA believes that posting a newspaper ad is unnecessary at this time.
- SGR has sent URS a copy of the electronic land ownership maps that SGR has prepared of the project area.
- SGR will look into the status of the response to the cut and fill questions submitted by SEA on 2/27/06.
- URS site visits are being scheduled. The noise field study will be beginning at the end of next week and going into the following week. The biologist will be in the field sometime in April.
- The next conference call was scheduled for April 21, 2006 at 10 am Eastern Time/9 am Central Time.

FD 34284, Third-Party Contracting Conference Call

Date: April 21, 2006

Attendees: Mr. Tom Ransdell (SGR)
Mr. David Coburn (SGR)
Ms. Victoria Rutson (SEA)
Ms. Catherine Glidden (SEA)
Ms. Jaya Zyman Ponebshek (URS)
Ms. Rini Ghosh (SEA)

Items Discussed:

- SEA received SGR's response letter to cut and fill questions. Jaya will check with the URS cut and fill analysts to see if there is any more information they need from SGR.
- SEA will be submitting another information request to SGR shortly regarding data needs specified by the URS noise analyst.
- SGR will be submitting an explanatory letter regarding the landowner parcel map, detailing how it was compiled and to assist in SEA's placement of the map in the public record.
- SGR will submit a letter describing the WPAP application process for the quarry.
- SEA provided an update on the progress of the Rural Historic Landscape study.
- The next conference call was scheduled for May 5, 2006 at 10 am Eastern Time/9 am Central Time.

FD 34284, Meeting/Conference Call Notes

To: Participants
From: Section of Environmental Analysis, Surface Transportation Board (SEA)
Re: To Discuss the Quihi Area Rural Historic Landscape Study
Date: May 9, 2006

Participants:

In Austin, TX

Mr. Larry Oaks, Texas Historical Commission
Mr. Terry Colley, Texas Historical Commission
Mr. Greg Smith, Texas Historical Commission
Ms. Terri Myers, Preservation Central, Inc.
Ms. Elizabeth Butman, Preservation Central, Inc.

Via Phone in Washington, DC

Ms. Rini Ghosh, SEA
Ms. Catherine Glidden, SEA

Purpose of the Meeting/Call: To update the Texas Historical Commission (THC) on the progress of the Rural Historic Landscape Study and to consult with the THC, pursuant to the Section 106 process of the National Historical Preservation Act (see 36 CFR 800.4(b)), regarding the identification efforts for the Landscape.

Summary of Discussion:

- ◆ Ms. Myers and Ms. Butman described their research methods and fieldwork, outlining the types of written resources they had consulted and the local people from whom they had collected oral information informally. They indicated that no formal oral histories had been taken.
- ◆ Ms. Myers and Ms. Butman indicated that they had surveyed over 1,500 individual features and close to 400 individual sites and had identified whether each resource was contributing or non-contributing to the Landscape.
- ◆ Ms. Myers and Ms. Butman stated that they had preliminarily determined that there were three distinct areas of historic concentration within the one overall Landscape. They were currently reviewing their data to determine the most appropriate manner in which to designate these areas (as one district, as three separate districts, as a multiple property, or as some other combination).
- ◆ Ms. Myers and Ms. Butman said there is a shared context between the three areas, with one continuous period of significance or perhaps two periods of significance: (1) the frontier settlement and (2) the agricultural developments.
- ◆ Ms. Myers and Ms. Butman showed some of the photos they had taken in the field to the THC and some discussion ensued.
- ◆ All participants then seemed to be in agreement that preliminarily designating the three distinct areas as two separate districts and a third area or district composed

of individually eligible farmsteads seemed to be most appropriate, though this is subject to further analysis by Ms. Myers and Ms. Butman.

- ◆ Ms. Ghosh indicated that although SEA had initially planned on providing the THC with a draft version of the Landscape report for review and comment, the THC would receive the Landscape report for review and comment only when it is made publicly available, likely as part of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Thus, this meeting/call served the purpose of providing the THC with initial information regarding the Landscape study.

FD 34284, Third-Party Contracting Conference Call

Date: May 17, 2006 (*The May 5, 2006 call was rescheduled to this date.*)

Attendees: Mr. Tom Ransdell (SGR)
Mr. Clay Upchurch
Mr. David Coburn (SGR)
Ms. Jaya Zyman Ponebshek (URS)
Ms. Rini Ghosh (SEA)

Items Discussed:

- After reviewing the landowner parcel map submitted by SGR, SEA has decided not to use this information as part of the environmental review process, because the information is incomplete and may not be up to date. If necessary, SEA will obtain information regarding landowner parcels from the Medina County Appraisal District, if available. Thus, to avoid generating confusion in the public record, SEA has returned this information to SGR and has instructed URS to do the same.
- SEA submitted an information request regarding data needs for the noise analyst to SGR on May 8, 2006. SGR is currently preparing a response and will submit the information to SEA as soon as possible.
- SEA and URS provided a status report on the progress of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Rural Historic Landscape Study.
- The next conference call was scheduled for June 1, 2006 at 3:30 pm Eastern Time/2:30 pm Central Time.

FD 34284, Third-Party Contracting Conference Call

Date: June 1, 2006

Attendees: Mr. Tom Ransdell (SGR)
Mr. Tom Hill (SGR)
Mr. Clay Upchurch (SGR)
Mr. Ron Gadban (SGR)
Mr. David Coburn (SGR)
Ms. Jaya Zyman Ponebshek (URS)
Ms. Rini Ghosh (SEA)

Items Discussed:

- SGR submitted a response to the information request submitted by SEA, dated May 25, 2006. SGR will be submitting additional information responding to this request in the near future.
- SEA and URS provided a status report on the progress of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Rural Historic Landscape Study.
- The next conference call was scheduled for June 21, 2006 at 2 pm Eastern Time/1 pm Central Time.

FD 34284, Third-Party Contracting Conference Call

Date: June 21, 2006

Attendees: Mr. Tom Ransdell (SGR)
Mr. Clay Upchurch (SGR)
Mr. David Coburn (SGR)
Ms. Victoria Rutson (SEA)
Ms. Jaya Zyman Ponebshek (URS)
Ms. Rini Ghosh (SEA)

Items Discussed:

- On June 9, 2006, SGR submitted an additional response to the information request submitted by SEA on May 8, 2006. There are no outstanding information requests at this time.
- SEA and URS provided a status report on the progress of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Rural Historic Landscape Study.
- The next conference call was scheduled for July 5, 2006 at 2 pm Eastern Time/1 pm Central Time.

FD 34284, Third-Party Contracting Conference Call

Date: July 5, 2006

Attendees: Mr. Tom Ransdell (SGR)
Mr. David Coburn (SGR)
Ms. Jaya Zyman Ponebshek (URS)
Ms. Rini Ghosh (SEA)

Items Discussed:

- SEA and URS provided a status report on the progress of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Rural Historic Landscape Study.
- There are no outstanding information requests from SEA to SGR at this time.
- The next conference call was scheduled for July 25, 2006 at 11 am Eastern Time/10 am Central Time.

FD 34284, Third-Party Contracting Conference Call

Date: July 25, 2006

Attendees: Mr. Tom Ransdell (SGR)
Mr. David Coburn (SGR)
Ms. Jaya Zyman Ponebshek (URS)
Ms. Rini Ghosh (SEA)

Items Discussed:

- SEA and URS provided a status report on the progress of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Rural Historic Landscape Study.
- SEA indicated that a Determination of Effects letter, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, was sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on July 18, 2006, and the letter will be available in the Environmental Correspondence section of the Board's website in the near future.
- SGR indicated that the state Water Pollution Abatement Plan permit for the quarry and the state air quality permit for the quarry are still in process. When these permits become final, SGR will supply information related to these permits to SEA.
- The next conference call was scheduled for August 16, 2006 at 11 am Eastern Time/10 am Central Time.

FD 34284, Third-Party Contracting Conference Call

Date: August 17, 2006

Attendees: Mr. Tom Ransdell (SGR)
Mr. David Coburn (SGR)
Ms. Jaya Zyman Ponebshek (URS)
Ms. Rini Ghosh (SEA)

Items Discussed:

- SEA and URS provided a status report on the progress of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Rural Historic Landscape Study.
- The next conference call was scheduled for August 31, 2006 at 12 pm Eastern Time/11 am Central Time.

FD 34284, Third-Party Contracting Conference Call

Date: August 31, 2006

Attendees: Mr. Tom Ransdell (SGR)
Mr. Clay Upchurch (SGR)
Mr. David Coburn (SGR)
Ms. Jaya Zyman Ponebshek (URS)
Ms. Rini Ghosh (SEA)

Items Discussed:

- SEA and URS provided a status report on the progress of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Rural Historic Landscape Study.
- SGR indicated that Vulcan's WPAP for the quarry has been approved and SGR will be submitting a letter to SEA updating SEA on the status of the permitting processes for the quarry.
- The next conference call was scheduled for September 14, 2006 at 2 pm Eastern Time/1 pm Central Time.

FD 34284, Third-Party Contracting Conference Call

Date: September 14, 2006

Attendees: Mr. Tom Ransdell (SGR)
Mr. Clay Upchurch (SGR)
Mr. David Coburn (SGR)
Ms. Jaya Zyman Ponebshek (URS)
Ms. Rini Ghosh (SEA)

Items Discussed:

- SEA and URS provided a status report on the progress of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Rural Historic Landscape Study.
- SGR indicated that it has submitted a letter to SEA updating SEA on the status of the permitting processes for the quarry.
- The next conference call was scheduled for September 28, 2006 at 2 pm Eastern Time/1 pm Central Time.

FD 34284, Third-Party Contracting Conference Call

Date: September 28, 2006

Attendees: Mr. Tom Ransdell (SGR)
Mr. Clay Upchurch (SGR)
Mr. David Coburn (SGR)

Ms. Victoria Rutson (SEA)
Ms. Catherine Glidden (SEA)
Ms. Rini Ghosh (SEA)
Ms. Jaya Zyman Ponebshek (URS)

Items Discussed:

- SEA and URS provided a status report on the progress of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Rural Historic Landscape Study.
- SEA requested SGR to provide a PDF version of the GTI cultural resources report on the Eastern Bypass Route (submitted in hard copy on October 27, 2005) for SEA's inclusion on the CD version of the SDEIS.
- SEA requested SGR to provide a contact address for Texas Field Services, the company that owns the inactive pipeline in the southern end of the project area, for inclusion on the environmental mailing list.
- SGR indicated that it will be submitting a letter requesting modification to some of the mitigation that SEA recommended in the letter SEA submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on July 18, 2006.
- The next conference call was scheduled for October 12, 2006 at 2 pm Eastern Time/1 pm Central Time.

FD 34284, Third-Party Contracting Conference Call

Date: October 12, 2006

Attendees: Mr. Tom Ransdell (SGR)
Mr. David Coburn (SGR)

Ms. Rini Ghosh (SEA)
Ms. Jaya Zyman Ponebshek (URS)

Items Discussed:

- SEA and URS provided a status report on the progress of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Rural Historic Landscape Study.
- SGR stated that it will be providing a contact address for Texas Field Services, the company that owns the inactive pipeline in the southern end of the project area, for inclusion on the environmental mailing list.
- The next conference call was scheduled for October 27, 2006 at 10 am Eastern Time/9 am Central Time.

FD 34284, Third-Party Contracting Conference Call

Date: October 27, 2006

Attendees: Mr. Tom Ransdell (SGR)
Mr. David Coburn (SGR)

Ms. Rini Ghosh (SEA)
Ms. Jaya Zyman Ponebshek (URS)

Items Discussed:

- SEA and URS provided a status report on the progress of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Rural Historic Landscape Study.
- Periodic conference calls are discontinued at this time, because URS is working on finalizing the appendices for the SDEIS, so any additional conference call notes could not be included in the SDEIS.