

02/24/04

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20423-0001
Attention: Rini Ghosh
Re: Finance Docket No. 34284

#E1-647
RRreceived
2/26/04

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

THIS LETTER IS IN RESPONSE TO THE NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT; I AM SUBMITTING THE FOLLOWING TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE FORMAL SCOPING PROCESS.

I believe Vulcan's proposed quarry and proposed SGR rail line, regardless of where the railroad is constructed, are connected actions, and should be studied in the same Environmental Impact Statement. The study should include direct impacts and alternatives to both projects, INCLUDING NO QUARRY AND NO RAIL LINE AT ALL.

My name is Don Harp. My wife and I moved here four years ago. We looked around for along time before we decided to settle here in Quihi. We are retired now (for about six months) and were looking forward to the peace and quiet that this place offered, which is what was so intriguing to us. We live about three quarters of a mile from the proposed quarry site. The proposed quarry and rail line will definitely have a negative affect on the quality of life in this area for us and everyone else in Quihi.

We get our water supply from the Edwards Aquifer. Our well hit water approximately 280ft. We are greatly concerned what affect the Quarry will have on our **ONLY** water supply. We have been told the proposed depth of the quarry is 200-250 ft. Not only will the mining process (BLASTING) have a great potential to cause damage to our wells and septic systems but can also contaminate our well water supply. Then add the danger of the proposed storage area over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone in an area just south of CR 353. We believe the EIS should include a study of this also. Diesel fuel storage is prohibited over the Aquifer, according to the EAA rules.

Another concern we have is flooding. Part of our property is in a flood plain: the diversion of the water for the proposed quarry and rail line could cause flooding that will impact our property and life. We need a full flood analysis on all proposed and alternative routes of the railroad, and the quarry site as well, including avoidance of debris clogging the trestles during flooding.

We think the EIS should also include a study of the effects the truck traffic will have on our unimproved county roads, and the increase in maintenance, the danger to other vehicles (including our school buses with our children on them), the periodic closure of roads for repairs. This study should be done for all routes, proposed and alternate.

Last but not in the least, our property value will go down. If we were to want to sell, WHO would buy knowing the noise, dust, danger to health and life and wildlife was just a stone throw away, AKA Vulcan's Quarry.

The wildlife that we love will be gone, replaced with whatever Vulcan offers, which is not what God intended. They are taking away God's country and making it Vulcan country.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION IN THIS MATTER,

Sincerely,

Donald E. Harp

CC: U. S. Congressman Henry Bonilla
Senator John Cornyn
Senator Frank Madla
Texas Representative Timoteo Garza
Medina County Judge Jim Barden
Medina County Pct. 1 Commissioner Royce Hartman