



# Texas Department of Transportation

P O BOX 149217 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9217 • (512) 486-5000

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R21

February 6, 2004



File: TPP (M)  
(512) 416-2349

Ms. Jaya Zyman-Ponebshek  
URS Corporation  
P.O. Box 201088  
Austin, Texas 78720-1088

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34284, Southwest Gulf Railroad Company  
Construction and Operation Exemption – Medina County, Texas

Dear Ms. Zyman-Poneshek:

In coordination with Southwest Gulf Railroad Company (SGR) filing, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has had several meetings with representatives of SGR since our last letter, dated April 30, 2003. These discussions have dealt with the rail crossing at FM 2676 in Medina County and the viability of placing a grade separation versus a fully signalized and gated grade crossing.

It is our understanding that an Environmental Impact Statement will now be required for the proposed rail corridor. Upon the record of environmental determination and identification of the proposed FM 2676 rail crossing location, TxDOT will conduct a safety assessment of the proposed crossing to determine the necessary safety improvements required to address the needs of the traveling public.

Safety improvements required for the FM 2676 crossing will be performed in accordance with TxDOT's policy and procedures. This will require an agreement with SGR. TxDOT must obtain approval from the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) to enter into this agreement. The TTC approval would include the type of safety treatment required by TxDOT at this highway-rail intersection. In accordance with the Texas Transportation Code, funding for initial and future rail crossing safety improvements must be borne by the rail company.

February 6, 2004

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact Carlos Lopez, Director, Traffic Operations Division at (512) 416-3200.

Sincerely,



James L. Randall, P.E.  
Director, Transportation  
Planning and Programming

cc: David H. Coburn, Steptoe & Johnson L.L.P.  
Dr. Robert Fitzgerald, Medina County Environmental Action Association  
Rini Ghosh, Surface Transportation Board  
Victoria Rutson, Surface Transportation Board  
Carlos Lopez, P.E., Director, Traffic Operations Division, TxDOT  
Wayne A. Dennis, P. E., Deputy Director, Transportation Planning and  
Programming Division, TxDOT  
Mario G. Medina, P.E., Transportation Planning and Programming Division,  
TxDOT  
David Casteel, P.E., San Antonio District, TxDOT