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R21

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
Case Control Unit 1925 K Street NW  
Washington, DC 20423-0001



Attn: Rini Ghosh  
STB Finance Docket No. 34284

Re: Comments from Verlyn Mangold 426 Acres, 112 Acres Medina County Quihi, Texas

1. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

- a. The rail line will cross both ranches. It will cross roads we use to visit both ranches. We read water meters monthly. Our cattle leaser checks his cattle frequently. Our deer hunters make frequent visits during hunting season. They will cross the rail line at least twice some more than that. What agrevation. They will travel before daylight and at dusk or dark.
- b. What about a derailment or accident trying to get to a sick cow or a sick person? How about trying to get to your hunting blind before sun rise and you're delayed?
- c. On our 426 acres, we have a pipeline installed years ago. The Pump Station is on land we once owned. It has not been checked to my knowledge since it was built. How safe is it with a train running over it? Vibrating around it?
- d. We have traffic on the roads the rail line will cross. School Buses, EMS, Dancers at Quihi at night, grocery shopping, many will be effected.

2. PUBLIC HEALTH AND WORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY

- a. Health - The dust from trains and trucks will cause numerus health concerns. Most of Quihi plants gardens. They eat the food produced from these gardens. They eat game that will breath this dust and fumes from trucks. Corn eaten by everyone will be eating this dust and breathing the fumes.
- b. Workers need to be very careful, we have hunters on both properties. They hunt deer, hogs, quail, doves, and fish. This takes place 6 months out of the year. Most landowners hunt themselves or lease their land to hunters. They hunt the early morning and dusk when the animals are active.

3. WATER RESOURCES

- On our 426 acres we have springs that service our tank. The train will effect the springs. We do not now how deep the springs are. They have been running for 100 years or more. The 112 Acre has a hand dug well and I'm sure it will be effected We have piped water to both pastuers. It is drinkable water. This line will will be crossed numerous times by the rail line. We pay a fee every month for this service since it became available to us.
- b We have set up berms when we enlarged the tank to 30 acres. We have springs servicing this tank. We have a mud tank that catches silt. On the 112 acres it has two water shed areas in front and rear. The water shed to the north runs through to the next pasteur.
- e. The rail line will effect the water sheds. The tank and its berms and springs. The line will travel thru three to five flood planes The loop will go thru one large flood plane. The Gerdes land has one. The quihi Creek is one. Our area has two. There are three tanks in a row. with our 30 acera tank, The Pichot tank, the Offinger tank.

e. The vibration from heavy trains will effect wells, pipe lines, water lines hills, springs, and old homes.

#### 4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Blue Bonnets, wine cups, agaritas, cactus the rail line will destroy. Rabbits, coons, squirrels, quail, doves, deer, bass, floridas, shad, catfish will all be effected by the rail line and the train.

b. We do not want the quarry the rail line or any part of this project.

#### 5. AIR QUAILITY IMPACTS

a. The dust - Just check the quarries in San Antonio. The dust is horrible. Travel from Rio Medina near Medina Lake to almost Bandera to Scenic Loop Road to UTSA to our home near the quarry at NW Military Drive. We see the damage to our Hill Country views. These few quarries have distroyed our beautiful blue hill country. They are even in our aquifer that supplys our drinking water. What will this mega quarry going to do to our hill country?

b. Please stop taking our limestone that filters our drinking water. Save our beautiful blue hills.

#### 6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

a. The soils in the Quihi area range from clay loam, rolling black land, shallow ridge sites, and range land. We have moderate erosion. We plant grasses blue stem, coastel, corn, grain. Some of the land is irrigated. Cattle are raised on the range land. All these will be b. impacted by the dust and fumes of trucks and trains.

c. The rail line will do harm to our creeks that flow thru our Quihi. The quarry will be over the Elem and Quihi Creeks. It will flow thru the town of Quihi. The creeks are home to ducks in the fall, deer for water. All this will cause a problem with a train track daming the creeks.

#### 7. LAND USE

a. Corn, grain, cotton, and grasses.

Cattle will eat dusty dirty corn, grasses and you eat the cattle. Chickens eat the grain. So do the turkeys, quail, doves and hogs. We all eat these. Do you want to eat animals that have been exposed to the pollutons associated with the quarry?

b. Indians have left their impact in our area. We are still finding artifacts on our ranches. Most go back to Paleo times (1500 yrs.) Dr. Hester has recorded numerous pieces found on parts of our 426 acres. Some were found in the area of our water meter.

c. My Great Great Grand Parents are buried in the path of the rail line. My Grand Mother and Great Aunt were born in the Edson Offinger home. they had Indians visit them in their younger days. The Wiley Scheers home was home to my Dad's Aunt on his Mothers side of the family. A number of people in Quihi and beyond have histories lke this. Land means alot to us.

## 8. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- a. Many people drive to and from work every day. They travel to doctors, in Hondo and San Antonio. All these will be aggravated with a slow gravel train.
- b. Quihi has dances at the hall near what Grand Mother called the Blue Hole. It is a spring that has been in Quihi since the they came to Quihi for the first time. A Bar B Q. dinner is held at the church every year and people come from all over South Texas. Quihi has the Luthern Church and New Fountain has the Methodist Church. A noisy quarry and train will certainly disturb these. Both grand parents were at the start of both these churches. Both churches do wonderful things for the community.
- c. We do not need this business in this community. It is historic with wonderful people. This business has lied. If they will be in the area for 50 years why can't they build quality over passes for cars or trains? It would be better to build them before more people come. It would be cheaper to build them now. What about paved roads in the quarry and all roads they will travel? Vulcan is not a government business. It is a for profit business who says they are coming thru whether we want them or not. This is what was said to my face.
- d. Let's bring back love of country and friends. Please don't let money and greed rule our world. Vulcan is not a Texas Medina County business. (Alabama)

## 9. NOISE

- a. Trucks going in and out, explosions inside the quarry to disloge rocks. Heavy trains that stop and start. whistles that blast at all hours. If they can't fix it in San Antonio how will they fix it in Quihi?
- b. Vulcan hasn't fixed the problem in San Antonio how will they fix it in Quihi?

## 10. VIBRATION

- a. Vibration from the heavy gravel train travels about 3 blocks of a city. Ask me, I live that for from a gravel train that disturbs my sleep, slows my traffic, slowed my husband's travel to his job. The men on the train blocked his way because they stopped the train to go eat. My husband was Manager of his store and he had to return to let others go to lunch. Did Vulcan say there train crew should close roads during the lunch hour. No. Their trains disturb our sleep patterns at 2AM - 4 AM and every 2 hours later. Do you think you want to do this to Quihi? Vulcan does't care.

## 11. RECREATION AND VISUAL RESOURCES

- a. Dancing, fishing, Swimming, family reunions, hunting These will all be disturb by the quarry and rail road.
- b. How do you stop the noise and polution causd by quarry and train?

## 12. CULTURAL RESOURCES

- a. Cattle , grain, grass, hunting and fishing Our barns and windmill are !00 yrs. old.

12. CULTURAL RESOURCES - continued

- b. Our water drainage to our area will be disturbed by the rail line and quarry. The quarry is built right in the flood plane. The train will travel in the flood plane. The quarry will be built close to Medina Lake with a dam that was completed in 1912 with Diverson Dam built below it with 24 miles of canals to the south. What will happen with the pumps with problems now will happen once the quarry starts operation.
- c. What will happen to farmers and ranchers that need to plow, feed cattle and people that need to travel in the area? People need to carry out business in Hondo and San Antonio. There is no good coming to Quihi.

13. COMULATIVE AND INDIRECT IMPACTS

- a. Income from land to fund Mrs. Wiemers (112 Acres with nursing costs (\$110 a day) Medina Lake has gate problems what will happen with vibrations to these gates.
- b. The canals (24 miles) for vegetable farms to the south What will diseal fuems and oils to these vegetables? The canals are made of cement what will vibrations do to 1912 cement? The tracks will divide ranches that will cause problems with cattle going to water. Driving on roads.

The information on Medina Lake was from "RIPPLES FROM MEDINA LAKE" by Rev. Cyril Matthew Kuehne, S.M. 1966