

#E1-703  
RA

February 24, 2004

Surface Transportation Board  
Case Control Unit  
1925 K Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

MAR 3 2004  
RECORDED

Attention: Rini Ghosh

Re: Finance Docket No. 34284

Dear Rini Ghosh,

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 Robin Portenier. I am 30 yrs and run a business with my husband. Our home is located less than 500 ft from the proposed quarry site and railroad route. We purchased our land with inheritance money from my husband's mother. We have put all we have into building a small country home for our children. This quarry would demolish all we have worked for and put our life savings into. The value of our property would be virtually nothing since it is just outside the realm of the quarry and railroad. We would be forced to stay here and raise our family around the noise, construction and blasting of the quarry.

I ask that these issues be addressed:

1. As has happened in other quarry areas, blasting in quarries has damaged wells and septic tanks. Septic tanks have actually polluted wells when blasting has damaged their structures. The EIS should study the present condition of the surrounding wells. We have only our well for water to our home and farm. A public water supply is not available to us. The EIS should study the effect of the loss of our well and how our family will be able to get water.
2. We need 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 have 3 creeks that run through our property. How will the quarry and railroad affect these creeks?
3. The EIS should include a study of the effects of the heavy loaded trucks weighing 78000 lbs traveling on FM 2676, which was not built to withstand that weight. Who will pay for upgrading of state and county roads that the trucks travel on?
4. The EIS should include a full study of the fuel storage area just south of CR 353. This proposed fuel storage area is over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. Diesel fuel storage is prohibited over the Aquifer, according to EAA rules.
5. The EIS should include a full study of the effect that blasting in the quarry would have to the Medina Dam, which is northeast of the proposed quarry. A recent flood in this area brought news attention to the fact that the Dam was constructed in the 1950's by hand. There was concern during the flood whether the Dam would maintain its integrity. How will the blasting put further strain on the Dam?

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6. The EIS should include a study of what will happen to the land after it has been mined.
7. The EIS should include a study of what will happen to the Edwards Aquifer water quality when Vulcan mines to a depth of 200-250 feet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Portenier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robin Portenier

cc: US Congressman Henry Bonilla  
US Senator John Cornyn  
Texas Senator Frank Madla  
Texas Representative Timoteo Garza  
Medina County Judge Jim Barden  
Medina County Commissioner Royce Hartman