

#E1-707
RS

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February 24, 2004

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

Attention: Rini Ghosh

Re: Finance Docket No. 34284

Dear Ms. 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 wife and I have lived at this location for 44 years. Our residence was built prior to flood zone maps and the house is in the flood zone. We have had water up to the top steps, but not in the house in these past 44 years. We are located 1 mile from the proposed quarry and 1 1/2 miles from the proposed railway line. Any change to the terrain such as rail road berms could cause the flooding in this area to be worse.

There are three (3) residences at this location. Each residence has a separate septic system and shallow well. Can you assure us that the blasting at the quarry will not effect our wells and septic systems?

From the beginning discussions of this quarry and railroad, we were told the railroad crossing on FM 2676 would have an overpass. Farming is the mainstay of this property. We transport our products to market using FM2676. Having a grade level crossing will cause delays in getting our crops to market. In addition many school children, San Antonio employees, elderly, and people seeking medical attention at the San Antonio Medical Center use FM2676 as there route. This proposed grade level railway and many trains will cause delays for local residents.

Sincerely,

Mathis Saathoff

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