

#E1-634

RG

Received
2/25/04

February 24, 2004

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
1925K Street, NW
Washington, DC 29423-0001

Attention: Rini Ghosh

Re: Finance Docket No. 34284

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

When Dewey (76) and I, (Ruth 74), bought our retirement home in the country at Hondo on FM 2676 three years ago, little did we know that Vulcan planned a gravel pit and railroad right by us. Being only $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the proposed railroad, many problems will arise. Unless an overpass is built on FM 2676 for the residents who have to use that road to go to the grocery store, post office, etc., an interminable amount of time will be spent at the crossing waiting for the trains to go by. A particular concern is that every time a train comes to the crossing it will have to blow its piercing whistle. Since we can hear the train whistle in Hondo, ten miles away, I can't imagine the ear splitting sound we'll hear all day long. A beautiful home owned by an elderly couple is within yards of the proposed rail. The sound will be deafening. On the other hand, if an overpass is built for the cars to use, then it will not be necessary for the train to blow its whistle.

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.

Thanks for your attention to this matter,

Ruth M. + Dewey D. Davis
Ruth M. and Dewey D. Davis

cc: U.S. Congressman Henry Bonilla

U.S. Senator John Cornyn

Texas Senator Frank Madla

Texas Representative Timoteo Garza

Medina County Judge Jim Barden

Medina County Commissioner Royce Hartman