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February 22, 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, we believe the following should be considered in the formal investigation.

We believe Vulcan's proposed quarry should be stopped. The findings in the Environmental Impact Statement should prohibit further consideration of the project. The study should include all of the direct impacts on our lives and our community.

We are a retired couple, ages 76 and 62. I am a retired Air Force pilot. Five years ago, before we had heard of the Vulcan project, we began building our new home about four miles from the proposed quarry site, hoping that the community and the water supply from our Edwards well would provide a comfortable and safe environment. If the Vulcan quarry is allowed to go in we fear those hopes will be dashed.

Bonnie was afflicted with asthma all her young life. Her breathing problems were aggravated in San Antonio, but completely cleared up when we moved out here. We are greatly concerned that Vulcan's activities will negatively impact our clean air.

Water is the other serious matter. There is no public water supply available to us. We understand that they will be going as deep as 250 feet into the limestone which will put them into the bedrock of the Edwards recharge zone. An earlier study pointed out that there is a geologic fault running through this area, perhaps a part of the Balcones Fault. Our neighbors, George and Sharon Nanos appear to have drilled their well very near this fault because each time there is an earthquake reported in this part of the world, even in Mexico, their Edwards well water becomes clouded. How will we be assured that their blasting will not affect our water supply? How can they be permitted to store diesel fuel in such a vulnerable area? What effect will their blasting have on the fault line and on the Medina Dam which is already in questionable condition?

In other places, we understand that wells and septic tanks have been damaged by blasting in quarries. Septic tanks have actually polluted wells when blasting has damaged their structures.

Sincerely,



Jack and Bonnie DeVault
PO Box 274
Hondo, TX 78861

cc: U.S. Congressman Henry Bonilla
House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC