

#E1-708
RL

February 24, 2004

Alfred & Jerrie Bishop
P.O.Box 87
Rio Medina, TX 78066-0087

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

Attention: Rini Ghosh

Fax No. (202) 565-9000
Re: Finance Docket No. 34284



Dear Ms. Ghosh:

My wife and I just completed a new home in Medina Oaks Subdivision (241 CR 253) and plan to move there in the next month or so. We are located about ½ mile north of the proposed quarry site and have several concerns about the proposed rail line and quarry.

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.

Water Quality: We are concerned about the effects the quarry will have on water wells. We understand that the quarry is located over the Edwards recharge zone. It is also our understanding that Vulcan plans to locate diesel storage tanks above the recharge zone. Is this prohibited? We also understand that dynamiting releases nitrates into the soil, which eventually seeps into the water supply. We have additional concerns that quarrying to a depth of 200-250 feet will not leave enough substrate above the Edwards Aquifer to filter out the nitrates and diesel. If our water supply becomes contaminated or if wells run dry after the quarry process begins, who is liable for damages? We request that the Environmental Impact Study include monitoring the quality and flow of all existing water wells within 2 miles of the quarry perimeter. We also request that Vulcan Materials install permanent water monitoring stations around the quarry for periodic testing. Tests shall be conducted by an unbiased certified water quality testing laboratory and paid for by Vulcan Materials. Test reports should be made available to local residents and property owners.

Air Quality: We are concerned about the effects the quarry will have on the air quality. We have concerns about the increase of dust particulate that will be generated by the blasting, crushing and transporting of limestone. With a south prevailing wind the dust will travel north toward our residence. Vulcan Materials should be required to provide dust abatement equipment at each dust emitting location. We request that a minimum of eight (8) equally spaced air quality monitoring stations be installed around the proposed quarry perimeter and one (1) air monitoring

station for each mile of proposed rail line for continuous air monitoring for a three year period prior to operating the quarry. Tests shall be conducted by an unbiased certified air quality testing laboratory and paid for by Vulcan Materials. Test reports should be made available to local residents and property owners.

Noise Levels: We are concerned about the effects the quarry will have on the noise levels around the quarry and the rail lines. We can faintly hear the passing of the Union Pacific trains 10 miles away. We are concerned about the increased noise level of four trains per day 3 miles away. We are also concerned about the noise that will be generated by the blasting, rock crushing and conveying of material at the quarry location. We request that NC Level monitoring stations be installed around the proposed quarry perimeter and rail line for continuous monitoring for a three year period prior to operating the quarry or rail line. Tests shall be conducted by an unbiased certified testing laboratory and paid for by Vulcan Materials. Test reports should be made available to local residents and property owners.

Environmental Impact: We choose Medina Oaks as tranquil natural habitat in the hill country to build our final dream home. Much of the value of our homestead is attributed to the tranquility and beauty of the natural habitat that surrounds our property. Why should Vulcan be allowed to profit by the destruction of this beautiful habitat? In certain parts of this area, people have observed birds that seek the various ponds of water, and fly to and from Mexico. An EIS should contain a study of their migration, and the compliance of this project with the Migratory Birds Treaty Act.

Grade Level Transportation Issues: We are concerned that a grade level railway will increase local travel delays, traffic hazards, flooding and road maintenance. We request the following Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) be included in your review:

An EIS to include a study by the Texas Department of Transportation on the grade separation at FM 2676.

An EIS to include a study on the grade separations needed for county roads, and all measures needed for traffic safety and flood prevention.

An EIS to include a complete study on the times and duration of rail traffic across any and all roads without grade separation, the effect of the delays, derailment, frequency, probability of accidents, stopping distances, noise levels and vibration, spills of chemicals and diesel fuels, or other hazardous materials being transported.

An EIS to include a 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.

An EIS to include a study of the effects 78,000 lb trucks traveling on FM 2676. Vulcan should be responsible for upgrading of state and county roads that the trucks travel on.

An EIS to include a study of the effects of the truck traffic on our unimproved county roads, and the increase in maintenance, the dangers to other vehicles, etc., the roads periodically closed for repair, for all routes, proposed and alternatives.

An EIS to include a study on the cumulative effects that new industries brought in by the rail and quarry will have on the Quihi area, with a full cost/benefit study. What will the maximum capacity of the SGR rail line be - how many trains per day will it be able to handle?

As a tax paying property owner we would appreciate your attention to the above issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Bishop" on the top line and "Jerrie Bishop" on the bottom line, written in a cursive style.

Al & Jerrie Bishop

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