

#E1-671
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Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20432-0001



Attn: Rini Ghosh

RE: Finance Docket No. 34284

Dear Ms. Ghosh,

I am responding to the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. I feel the concerns listed below should 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.

I am Leonard G. Wernette, 75 years old, born in Medina County, and with the exception of my service in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, have lived here all my life. I was honorably discharged, and my wife and I have worked hard to provide my family of five children with a safe and healthy environment, a good home and a sound education.

My home is in the Quihi area and close to one of the "proposed railroad" sites. I now have health problems and have needed to get to a hospital quickly. I had a business for 26 years, hauling raw milk from the dairy to the creamery and know from experience that if there is a RR crossing, you can never tell when or how long it will be blocked. If we have to have this railroad, it needs to have grade separation for FM 2676. We have looked at the maps of this area and having lived here for quite a few years, we know there would be a better route than the proposed ones through Quihi. The old Galveston, Houston, San Antonio RR route is fairly level, and the land is owned by families that are very supportive of Vulcan. There would be little added distance, and far fewer problems to deal with. For instance, much less expense crossing the flood plains, the damage of old historic buildings, destroying Indian artifacts and the danger of poisoning the wetlands with weed control sprays and chemicals along the RR right of way.

I have an Edwards water well and it is our only source of water for our family needs and cattle operation. This is a serious situation that Vulcan presents. What happens to the chemicals used in blasting? It becomes a fine powder mixed with the settling dust and rains will leach this poison down into our aquifer. { I understand that this proposed quarry will go dangerously deep, close to the surface of our aquifer recharge zone. } What about chemical and fuel spills? Accidents are rarely planned for, so who is responsible when one does occur? Will Vulcan be required to test the waterwells for chemicals in the areas surrounding their quarry site? We've been told for years that our Edwards Aquifer is very fragile, so what will blasting do to it? Is it suddenly not so fragile????? Who will monitor Vulcan and what organization will be responsible for the financial losses and property devaluation?

Sincerely,

Leonard G Wernette

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