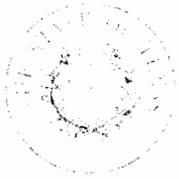


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Kathleen Hartnett White, *Chairman*
R. B. "Ralph" Marquez, *Commissioner*
Larry R. Soward, *Commissioner*
Margaret Hoffman, *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

June 28, 2004

received
7/7/04

Ms. Rini Ghosh
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

FD 34284

Re: TCEQ GEARS #6063-Southwest Gulf Railroad Company, Railway Construction, Medina County

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has reviewed the above-referenced project and offers the following comments:

A review of the project for General Conformity impact in accordance with 40 CFR Part 93 and Title 30, Texas Administrative Code §101.30 indicates that the proposed action is located in Medina County, which is currently unclassified or in attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for all six criteria air pollutants. Therefore, general conformity does not apply.

Although any demolition, construction, rehabilitation or repair project will produce dust and particulate emissions, these actions should pose no significant impact upon air quality standards. Any minimal dust and particulate emissions should be easily controlled by the construction contractors using standard dust mitigation techniques.

The environmental assessment addresses issues related to surface and groundwater quality.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Daniel Burke, Policy and Regulations Division, at (512) 239-1543.

Sincerely,

Jim Muse, Director
Policy and Regulations Division