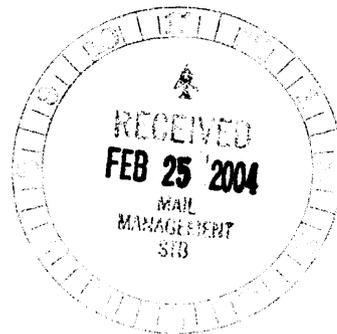


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R21

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Case Control Unit
1925K Street Washington D.C. 20423-0001



Attn: Rini Ghosh

Refferance to STB Finance Docket #34284

Dear Rini Ghosh

In reply to your memorandum of January 28, 2004 the following items are of concern to me. The construction of this seven mile rail Line to be constructed by Southwest Gulf Railroad company (Vulcan Materail). Purpose to haul gravel to Union Pacific Track at Dunlay, Texas. This line will cross private land that have restrictive Covents on titles against land being sold to any rail road. This land would have to be acquired by Eminent Domain. It is hard to believe that a privet company and the only one that will use this line can impose on the owner of said land.

The other items of concern are as follows:

1. GEOLOGIC FACTORS
 - A. Sensitive Recharge Features
 - a. Depth of Quarry in relation to depth of Edwards Aquifer
 - b. Karst features and faults
2. SOIL
 - A. Loss of top soil due to rail line crossings four creeks and flood zones.
3. MINERAL RESOURCES
 - A. Damage to water and gas/oil lines Tracks and loaded trains ~~loaded~~ will pass over these lines.
 - B. Main spring ^{that} ~~the~~ supplies water to Quihi Creek from CR4512 to Quihi, Texas. Rail and trains could cause damage to same.
4. CULTURAL RESOURCES
 - A. A large number of historic home and farms can and will be effected by all 4 purposed rail sights.
5. GROUND WATER
 - A. Water wells, tanks, dams, could be harmed by frequent rail use.
6. Land Values will take a nose dive and planned subdivisions will be effected.
7. WILDLIFE
 - A. A number of ranches lease land to hunters, The constant use of the rail line will disrupt movement of game.
 - B. Mortality rates will increase.

8. ARCHAEOLOGICAL

A. Official State of Texas Site #41ME132 that is on our ranch will have Alternative #3 of Southwest Gulf Railroad run right over this sight.

Official State of Texas Site #41ME133 is very close to sight #41ME132 and would be effected if the rail line was to move East from purposed Alternative #3.

This Quarry and rail line are of grave concern to our future in Medina County and our livelihood.

Please also be advised that on February 28, 2000 a majority of Commissioners Court indicated that they would not exercise their power to condemn property for the sole benefit of private enterprise. This line is being put in for the purpose of transporting Vulcan Material from the Quarry to markets in Houston and other sites. This line will not be used by any other corporation. What an infringement on ownership of private property.

Sincerely,


R. J. Mangold
WEMAN RANCH
QUIHI, TEXAS

Mailing Address
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San Antonio, Texas 78230-4123