

#E1-644
RL

February 21, 2004

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-001

Received
2/25/04

Attention: Rini Ghosh

Re: Finance Docket No. 34284

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

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, including no quarry and no rail line at all.

I, Janice S. Waits a retired school teacher of Medina County have lived in Medina County for 24 years, and live on a ranch about 1 mile from the proposed quarry. We raise beef cattle and chickens in this agricultural community. We are dependent upon a water well on the Edwards Acquifer for this endeavor. It is my fear that our water will become limited, maybe non existent as well as the quality altered due to blasting from the quarry.

The proposed rail line will endanger lives at the crossings for school bus riders, emergency vehicles, vehicles transporting farm equipment, and workers going to work. There will be flooding issues at some crossings and to some historic homes in the area. Some properties that have been in families for generations will be split.

Dust from the quarry will in itself pollute our peaceful agricultural atmosphere. We have a large number of fruit trees and a large garden that will be affected by the dust. The endangered birds and wildlife will leave the area leaving us with nothing but a noisy, dusty, dangerous industrial area.

Sincerely,

Janice S. Waits