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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

February 3, 2005

Dr. Robert Fitzgerald
President
Medina County Environmental Action Association
202 CR 450
Hondo, TX 78861

Re: STB Finance Docket 34284, Southwest Gulf Railroad Company –
Construction and Operation Exemption – Medina County, TX

Dear Dr. Fitzgerald:

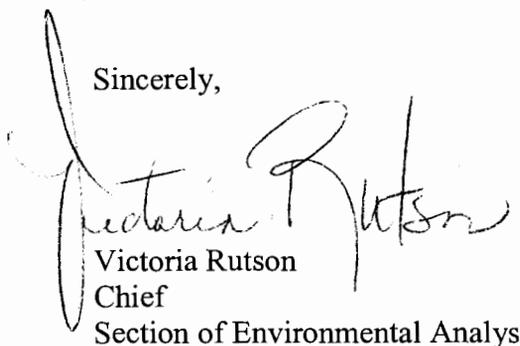
Thank you for your letter dated January 19, 2005 in which you request the Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) to prepare a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and to provide an additional public meeting for the environmental review of Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's proposed rail line construction and operation in Medina County, Texas.

In your letter you state that the Medina County Environmental Action Association (MCEAA) believes that the Draft EIS issued by SEA on November 5, 2004 was deficient for a number of reasons and that a Supplemental Draft EIS should be prepared to correct those deficiencies.

The issues raised in your letter are substantive comments on the scope and contents of the Draft EIS. Although this letter was submitted after the close of the comment period on the Draft EIS, we will consider your letter as a comment on the Draft EIS and will provide a response at the appropriate time.

We appreciate your interest in the environmental review process for this proceeding. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Rini Ghosh of my staff at (202) 565-1539.

Sincerely,



Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis