

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service

101 S. Main Street  
Temple, TX 76501-6624  
Phone: 254-742-9960  
FAX: 254-742-9859

# E1-3292  
FD 34284  
127W

December 5, 2007

Surface Transportation Board  
Section of Environmental Analysis  
395 E Street, S. W.,  
Washington DC 20423-0001

Attention: Diana Wood, Section of Environmental Analysis

Subject: LNU-Farmland Protection-  
Draft PA  
Southwest Gulf Railroad Company  
STB Docket No. FD 34284  
Medina County, Texas

We have reviewed the information provided in the Draft PA for the proposed construction of the Southwest Gulf Rail line in Medina County, Texas. Our agency is primarily concerned with actions that may impact Important Farmland. We have previously reviewed this project as required by the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA).

We have previously responded to the four alternatives outlined in the Draft EIS dated Nov 5, 2004 and we have previously evaluated the three additional proposed routes outlined in your notice dated March 13, 2006. This data was included in the SDIS. We have reviewed the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and have no additional comments on this Draft PA.

Thanks for the opportunity to reply to this Draft PA and the resource materials you submitted to evaluate this project. We also thank you for recognizing the importance of soils in the planning process. If you have any questions please call James Greenwade in the Soils Section at (254)-742-9960, Fax (254)-742-9859.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James M. Greenwade".

James Greenwade.  
Soil Scientist  
USDA-NRCS, Temple, Texas