



Dean McNew
<deanmcnew@yahoo.com>
04/25/2007 05:40 PM

To diana.wood@stb.dot.gov
cc Catherine.Glidden@stb.dot.gov
bcc

Subject Re: Historic Land Holdings near Eastern Alternatives

FD 34284
E1-2934

Ms. Wood:

Thank you for directing Ms. Catherine Glidden to send a follow up email regarding my family's historic land holdings within the project area of the Southwest Gulf Railroad (SGR) Construction and Operation Exemption in Medina County, Texas, specifically the SGR's Modified Medina Dam Route. The statement that by appearances our property would be avoided by any other current rail line alternatives under consideration brought an overwhelming relief to my brothers and their families, my neighbors, my children, and me. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you for always taking time to address my concerns and answer my questions so professionally. I appreciated all of your efforts.

As I follow all of the labors of the Surface Transportation Board, the Texas Historical Commission, and the Southwest Gulf Railroad, I know that the rail line placement-matter is not taken lightly. With all of hard work by all agencies, the ultimate location-selection will be the most feasible and most reasonable affecting the fewest number of landowners and least amount of archaeologically sensitive terrain while balancing the desires of the Quihi Historic District - an ultimate benefit to all involved parties. However, if the preferred Proposed Route with SGR's modified enhancements is not selected and one of the eastern routes is deemed more preferable, please proceed with the Weiblen modifications included.

Again, thank you for everything.

Sincerely,
Dean and Ronda McNew
1590 County Road 366
Hondo, TX 78861

Catherine.Glidden@stb.dot.gov wrote:

Dear Dean and Ronda McNew:

I am writing you on behalf of Diana Wood at the Surface Transportation Board (Board) who asked me to follow up with you regarding your historic land holdings within the project area for the Southwest Gulf Railroad (SGR) Construction and Operation Exemption in Medina County, TX. We are in receipt today of your Fax that shows the location of the property in question along County Road 366. We understand that you are concerned that the Eastern Routes would impact your farmlands. I have analyzed the map and our route maps with your Fax in hand in order to determine the nature and extent of any potential impacts to your land.

Upon reviewing your map it appears that your property along County Road 366 lies outside any of the alternatives that have been identified by the Board as Environmentally Preferable. The route that is closest to your property and would cross your holdings on the western end is SGR's Modified Medina Dam Route. This route was dropped from consideration by the Board in the Supplemental Draft

Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) that was served on January 29, 2007. The two environmentally preferable routes that the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) proposed be carried forward in the SDEIS are the MCEAA Medina Dam Alternative and the Eastern Bypass Route. Both of these environmentally preferable routes appear to be located well west of your property boundaries.

The only other route we are currently considering is the Proposed Route with the additional mitigation proposed by SGR. However, SEA has yet to decide whether to carry this route forward in the Final Environmental Impact Statement. Either way, SGR's Modified Medina Dam Route is no longer a route that is under consideration by SEA.

Please feel free to contact me regarding any further clarification that you may need regarding your concerns. However, it appears that your property (farm holdings) would be avoided by any other current alternatives under consideration.

Best Regards,

-Catherine Glidden
Environmental Protection Specialist
Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
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