



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

October 1, 2007

Barbara H. Jones, Trustee
The Michael Churchill Jones Ranch Trust
209 Newbury Terrace
San Antonio, TX 78209

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34284, Southwest Gulf Company - Construction and Operation Exemption - Medina County, TX; Request to be a Consulting Party under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

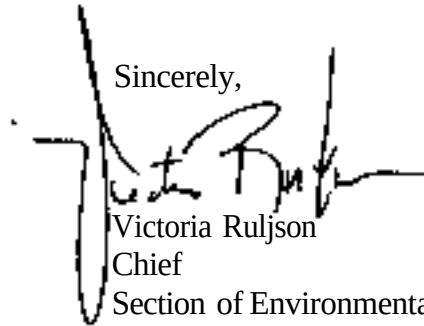
Dear Ms. Jones:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is in receipt of your September 27, 2007 written request to act as a consulting party for the above referenced project pursuant to Section 36 CFR 800.2(c)(5) of the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), which states: "Certain Individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking may participate as consulting parties due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties interest." As you know, SEA is conducting an environmental review, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and NHPA, of the Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's proposed rail line construction and operation in Medina County, Texas. Section 106 of NHPA requires that the Board consult with Federal, tribal, state and local agencies, and additional consulting parties with an interest in the project area, to identify, assess and resolve any adverse effects to significant historic properties that may be caused by the proposed undertaking.

We believe your involvement as a Section 106 consulting party is appropriate given your close connections to the area. We are therefore pleased to include your organization as a Section 106 consulting party for this proceeding and will ensure that you receive all relevant information to assist you in your reviews.

We appreciate your interests in this project and look forward to working with you as we complete the Section 106 and NEPA processes. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Diana Wood, SEA Project Manager at 202-245-0302.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Ruljson", is written over the printed name and title.

Victoria Ruljson

Chief

Section of Environmental Analysis

cc: F. Lawrence Oaks, Texas Historical Commission
Brad Patterson, Texas Historical Commission

HEI-3185
D7W

The Michael Churchill Jones Ranch Trust
Barbara H. Jones, Trustee
209 Newbury Terrace
San Antonio, TX 78209
September 27, 2007

Re: Finance Docket 34284

Victoria Ruston, Chief
Section of Environmental and Analysis Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW Room 1110
Washington, DC 20423

Dear M^r. Ruston:

As the trustee of the Michael Churchill Jones Ranch Trust I am concerned about the proposed placement of an eastern railroad route on this property which is located on CB 4516 in (Medina County, Texas.

I should like submit my request to be a consulting party to the proceedings for the Programatic Agreement

Any route built through the eastern section of the property would block the flow of creek water into a retention tank which provides water for both livestock and wildlife. As a result of that, the property would be without any source of drinking water for the animals.

Also, on the property there is located an old, abandoned mine dug by hand in the late 1800's. That site has historical and archeological significance for current and future generations.

Please grant my request to be a consulting party to the Programatic Agreement for FD 34284.

Very truly yours,

Barbara H. Jones, Trustee

Barbara H. Jones, Trustee
The Michael Churchill Jones Ranch Trust
209 Newbury Terrace
San Antonio, TX 78209