

February 21, 2004

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
1926 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RECEIVED
FEB 26 2004

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 50R 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 have many concerns regarding the Vulcan Quarry. I moved into my aging father's home to care for him four years ago.

My prime concern is that we are in a flood plain and any new construction could put us at risk of being flooded. Our road becomes a river when we have heavy rain as it is.

Quishi is a community full of historical homes. I would not like to see these destroyed.

The prospect of a railroad crossing on FM 2676 is a big concern because it is a route my husband, brothers and many neighbors use for a commuting route. Although the area is open to the east of the proposed route there is a sharp curve to

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the west and I am concerned about these people being involved in accidents.

There were concerns in the past about whether the Medina Dam is structurally safe. I feel the blasting at the quarry could put many people at risk of a huge flood if the dam were damaged by the blasting.

It concerns me that the quarry is on the Edwards Aquifer.

Lastly, I am a bird-watcher. I know there are many birds that nest in the area. In particular the Painted Bunting nests in our pasture. Since we are about one third mile from Alternate route A and these birds are very secretive and shy I'm sure having trains thru the area repeatedly would drive them out.

Thank you for your attention to this.
Sincerely, Barbara Lapp