

Finance Docket No. 34284
Southwest Gulf Railroad Company
Construction and Operation Exemption
Medina County, Texas

Public Meetings
December 2, 2004

Name Tom Ransdell

Address 800 Isom Road, San Antonio, TX 78216
Suite 300

- ☐ I wish to speak today.
- ☐ I do not want to speak but would like SEA to read my comments at the meeting.
- ☒ I wish to submit a written comment, but do not want it read at today's meeting.

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**Statement of Darrell Brownlow, Ph.D.,
Technical Advisor to Southwest Gulf Railroad
Before the Surface Transportation Board
Hondo, Texas
December 2, 2004**

- **My name is Darrell Brownlow and I am a technical advisor for Vulcan Materials Company and Southwest Gulf Railroad.**
- **Vulcan Materials Company and Southwest Gulf Railroad thanks the S.E.A. for its hard work in preparing a very comprehensive and objective draft environmental impact statement that addresses each of the matters relevant to the environmental review of this proposed project. While Southwest Gulf Railroad is likely to offer the S.E.A. some more detailed comments in writing on the proposed mitigation measures before January 10, in general we concur with the S.E.A.'s assessment of the impacts of the proposed rail line.**
- **The draft environmental impact statement finds that, with the proposed mitigations, the line could be built along the preferred route or two other alternative routes. Southwest Gulf Railroad will, of course, await the outcome of the environmental review and the entire S.T.B. process. Assuming there is no change in this result, Southwest Gulf Railroad continues to believe that its preferred route is the best alternative. In addition to the S.E.A.'s generally positive conclusions about the preferred route, it is also the shortest route and impacts the fewest landowners.**
- **Southwest Gulf Railroad believes that the mitigation proposed by the S.E.A. is generally acceptable, although it will offer some comments on certain of the mitigation measures. The S.E.A. has done a thorough job in taking into account the views of people and groups in the area of the proposed line. Southwest Gulf Railroad believes that the proposed mitigation measures should address the cause of their concerns.**
- **As directed by the proposed mitigation measures, Southwest Gulf Railroad intends to work with the appropriate local, state and federal agencies to ensure that the public interest is protected on matters such as flooding concerns, traffic safety and cultural resources, among other issues identified in the draft Environmental Impact Statement.**
- **Southwest Gulf Railroad and Vulcan continue to stand ready to consult with persons or groups interested in constructive dialogue on the rail line as the process moves forward. Thank you.**