

#E1-2799
RG

January 26, 2007

Surface Transportation Board
Rini Ghosh
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

received
2/2/07

Re: Finance Docket #34284
Vulcan Materials Co. /Southwest Gulf Railroad

Dear Ms Ghosh:

This letter is a plea asking you to **deny** the Southwest Gulf Railroad and Vulcan Materials Co from developing in the Quihi (Medina County) area. This has been a very devastating issue to deal with for the past seven years since it will have a **severe and significant impact** on my family's life and the rural community that I love.

It took my husband and me several years to find the "perfect property." We have everything we were looking for; raising cattle, farming the land, gardening, enjoying the wildlife and the peace and quiet of the country environment. This is also the best place for us to raise a family and eventually retire. The proposed railroad and quarry would be approximately 4000 feet from our property and would jeopardize all of our dreams we have worked so hard to have.

The Quihi area **must be preserved!** We must protect the historical and archeological sites, wildlife, environment, and maintain the air and water quality. The proposed site of the quarry, maintenance area and railroad are on or around floodplains and would increase flooding; thus endangering the wildlife and farmsteads in the area. The increased noise from the railroad and blasting at the quarry would be heard throughout the day and night and would disrupt the quiet, tranquil countryside. The wells would be in jeopardy of cracking due to the blasting at the quarry and vibrations from the railroad. The country roads were not designed to handle the increased traffic and large trucks that would be traveling them. I now cannot comfortably pass another vehicle in some areas of our county road (CR353); one vehicle has to stop to let the other pass. Will the truck drivers stop to let me pass? There will also be numerous railroad crossings we will have to contend with. How long will it take to get out of our property to the main road? The trains will be slowing down and or stopped the majority of the time. This will greatly affect our commute to and from town. How are emergency vehicles to get through? We cannot be road and land blocked!

It would be **detrimental** to Medina County and its citizens for numerous reasons if the railroad and quarry are allowed to develop in the area. We must preserve the beautiful country for generations to come; as our forefathers wanted. **NO** railroad! **NO** quarry!

Sincerely,



Vicki L. Salomon