

222 County Road 363
Hondo, TX 78861-6427

#E1-633
RJ

February 23, 2004

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

received
2/25/04

Attention: Rini Ghosh

Re: Finance Docket No. 34284

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

In response to the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement(EIS), I am submitting the following to be considered in the formal scoping process.

Vulcan's proposed quarry and proposed Southwest Gulf Railroad(SGR) rail line are connected actions, and should be reviewed in the same EIS. This study should include direct and indirect impacts both proposals would entail.

If the SGR is built, it should include grade separation at FM2576 and CR4516. These are the two most traveled routes. If grade-level crossings are allowed, safety will be greatly compromised. Even though the most advanced warning devices are utilized, trains will tie up traffic for two to five minutes at least four times per day. While these tie-ups seem short, consider when school busses, fire trucks, ambulances, electric utility, and law enforcement vehicles are impacted. Railway construction will cause more traffic delays.

Another factor the SGR and quarry will impact is on water. The railway will cause major disturbances in natural water runoff. The EIS should also consider what the quarry and railway will do to underground water supplies, both shallow wells and Edwards Underground. Blasting in the quarry will likely affect subsurface flows especially along fault lines, of which there are many. (Fault map enclosed as an attachment to this letter).

Please give the EIS the benefit of a fair and detailed study.

Sincerely,


Morris Baxter

Encl: Map

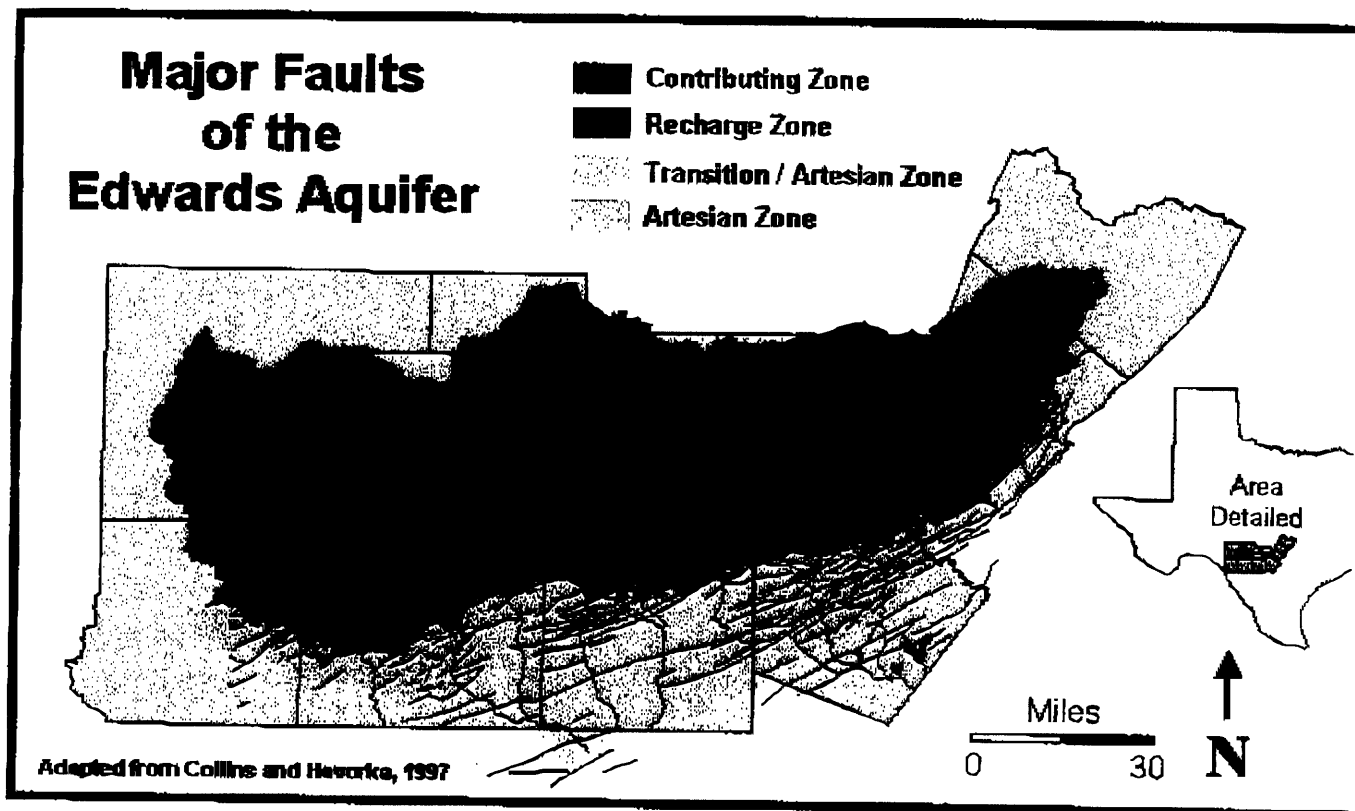
Cc: U.S. Senator John Cornyn(w/o encl.)
U.S. Congressman Henry Bonilla("
Texas Senator Frank Madla("
Texas Representative Timoteo Garza("
Medina County Judge Jim Barden("
Medina County Commissioner Royce Hartman("

The Edwards Aquifer Homepage

by Gregg Eckhardt

Faults and Caves

Regional faultmap



The graphic above gives you an idea of the great number and complexity of the faults of the Edwards Aquifer. The faults it makes you dizzy to look at them at this scale! There are places on this graphic where many small faults just form a red blob.

Large faults act as barriers or partial barriers to groundwater flow; while smaller faults and associated joints form local regional ground-water conduits. The graphic does not show the direction of dip, but for most of these faults it is to southeast. Note how most of the faults tend to run from southwest to northeast.



Many of the normal faults of the Balcones Fault Zone are by zones of highly fractured strata. When Loop 1604 was near I-10 in northwest Bexar county in the mid-80's, a road