



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

May 8, 2007

Richard C. Garay
Coahuiltecan Research Associates
1130 Mission Road
San Antonio, TX 78210

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

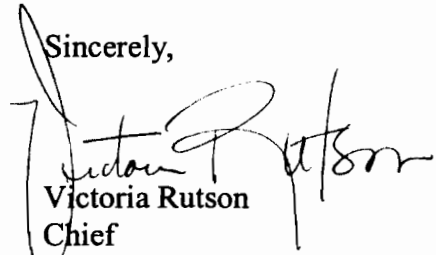
Dear Mr. Garay:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is in receipt of your May 7, 2007 written request, provided on behalf of Coahuiltecan Research Associates, 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). 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 aboriginal connections to Texas and your expertise regarding the possible location of any properties of tribal traditional religious significance within the project 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 Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a stylized "R".

Victoria Rutson

Chief

Section of Environmental Analysis

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