

2315 Alladin Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78228

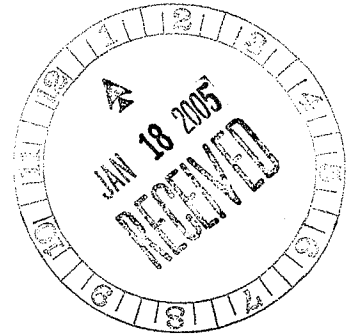
EI-1326

January 10, 2004

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

Attention: Rini Ghosh

Subject: Finance Docket Number 34284



Dear Ms. Ghosh:

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement considers every environmental impact of the proposed railroad as having no significant impact or as being easily ameliorated by minor changes to the proposal, which by the way, will be designed, approved, monitored, approved, and validated by Vulcan. Such a one-sided approach does not qualify as scientific nor are the proposed solutions fair to all concerned.

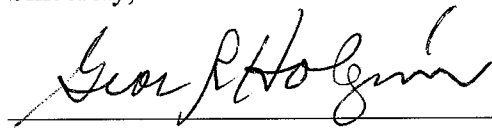
The Study fails to consider the environmental impact of the proposed quarry for which the railroad is to be built. For example:

1. Dust pollution. Dust particles from mining and transporting operations will foul the air and cover everything in the environment, adversely affecting the health and the natural beauty of wildlife and habitat. The dust will adversely affect the health of human residents and the operation of machinery of all kinds. The efficiency and lifetimes of automobiles, air conditioners, power saws, generators and other machinery with moving parts (all machinery) will be reduced. The health of pets and farm animals will not benefit from the dust. Even goats may choke on dust covered forage. Thirty mile vistas will be reduced by dust hanging in the air.
2. Noise pollution. The proposed fifty year twenty-four hour quarry operation will create an incessant barrage of clamorous nerve grating noise which will not end in my lifetime. The noise will drive wildlife from the region; thus reducing their effective habitat. Wildlife species of the region include deer, hog, coyote, fox, wildcat, opossum, raccoon, armadillo, squirrel, road runner, turkey, hawk, snakes, lizards, and many other native species. In addition, livestock animals are sensitive to noise and will be more difficult to raise and market.

3. Water pollution: Our only source of water in the subdivision is well water from the Edwards Aquifer. Each household must have its own individual septic system to dispose of waste water. Livestock use water from open tanks. All three systems may be compromised by the proposed operations. If blasting weakens a septic system, nearby wells will be contaminated. If blasting fractures the impervious formations we may lose our well water. Loss of well water ends all farming and livestock operations on our arid hill country ranches.

How will residents affected by the proposed quarry operations be protected or compensated for loss of health, quality of life, and livelihood? I believe the Environmental Impact Statement should address these issues and assess the costs to residents. Measures should be put in place to prevent such losses. A fund should be set aside for settling claims of loss due to quarry operations. A procedure should be put in place specifically for adjudicating claims of loss due to quarry operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George R. Holguin", written over a horizontal line.

George R. Holguin