

780 CR 354
Hondo, Texas 78861
January 9, 2005

EI-1338

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

Attn: Rini Ghosh
Re: Finance Docket #32484

received
1/11/05

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

This is our second letter to you concerning the proposed limestone quarry and Southwest Gulf Railroad by Vulcan Materials.

The very first point we would like to bring to your attention is the proposed 1700 acre quarry is directly over the Edwards Underground Water Recharge Zone, where at this area the water table comes up to 200 feet from the surface. A quarry over this area should not be allowed! Edwards Aquifer serves a very large area. Many people, towns and industries would be affected.

Secondly, if the railroad is permitted, some of the land will have to be condemned. The railroad would have to be granted common carrier status; we know this is not feasible.

If the quarry and railroad are permitted many lives in this area will be seriously affected. The proposed railroad route will go through the flood plain, causing much more flooding, which we already have after heavy rains.

Along with the rail line there will be many trucks on our roads which will be a huge problem for this rural community. Farmers and ranchers use these same roads for hauling livestock and moving their farm machinery. E.M.S. and fire protection is another concern as they will have to cross the railroad to have access to many of us.

We are very concerned as to the effect the blasting the quarry will have on our water wells. Our wells are our only source of water for many of us.

There are fault lines going through the quarry site directly to the Medina Lake Dam. We feel the blasting will surely follow these fault lines and pose a dangerous risk to Medina Lake Dam.

In closing, we feel your studies did not adequately cover many of our concerns. We sincerely hope the STB will call for a more extensive study on all of these issues. We would appreciate an answer from you regarding our concerns.

Sincerely,

Joe Balzen

Erna L. Balzen

Joe and Erna Balzen

cc: Henry Bonilla, U. S. Representative
John Cornyn, Senator
Kay Bailey Hutchison, Senator
Frank Madla, Texas Senator