

January 8, 2005

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
Washington, DC 20423

EI-1331

received
1/11/05

Attention: Rini Gosh
STB Docket No. 34284

I have read the summary Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) you were so kind to send to my attention in regard to the Vulcan quarry and associated railroad planned for Medina County.

I feel that many of my concerns about the ways that this proposed operation will disrupt the tranquility of our daily lives has been trivialized in the report. My water well provides a marginal volume of water now – I expect that it could be completely dry when competing for the large amounts of water consumed by a quarry operation. I don't think any agency can provide reasonable assurances that this will not occur and I simply cannot afford to drill a new well on my limited retirement income.

It is not right to give the power to a private company to condemn historic farmland for uses destined only to line the pocket of private profit-seeking companies. How do you expect a relatively poor county such as Medina, to keep up with the great increases in road repairs caused by a serious increase in traffic caused by very heavy trucks? They can't even keep the roads adequately repaired now!

And who needs more train wrecks. Have you read the paper? Count them! I understand that they want to construct highway crossings "on grade" rather than building overpasses. With the heavy volume of rail/truck traffic predicted, it will be enormously disruptive to the whole community.

Flying rocks from gravel trucks cracking windshields, large clouds of limestone dust contaminating our air 24/7, day and night blasting, rail noises, horns etc will pollute a large part of the county. I'm sure you have limestone in your neighborhood – why don't we propose this operation be relocated there?

Sincerely,

Al & Jerrie Bishop
241 CR 253
PO Box 87
Rio Medina, TX 78066