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EDWARDS AQUIFER  
AUTHORITY

6.10-1.1-5

February 26, 2004

Ms. Rini Ghosh  
Surface Transportation Board  
Case Control Unit  
1924 K Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

FD 34284

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

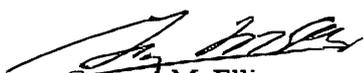
The purpose of this letter is to provide comments on Surface Transportation Board (STB) Finance Docket No. 34284 regarding Southwest Gulf Railroad Company (SGRC) and their proposed construction and operation of seven miles of railroad track in Medina County, Texas. On February 4, 2004, the Edwards Aquifer Authority (Authority) received the STB memorandum with the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the draft EIS scope, and request for comments. The Authority is mandated to manage and protect the Edwards Aquifer within all or parts of an eight-county region, including Medina County.

According to the draft scope for the EIS, the EIS will address various proposed activities associated with the construction and operation of the proposed new rail line by SGRC and the potential environmental impacts. Because the Edwards Aquifer is used as an agricultural and domestic water supply within the SGRC project area, the Authority recommends that specific language be inserted to require an inventory of all water wells. The Authority recommends that Impact Category 3.a. - Water Resources be changed to read as follows:

"Describe the existing groundwater resources within the project area, such as aquifers, and springs, and the potential impact on these resources resulting from construction and operation of the proposed new rail line. Locate all water wells in the project area and identify the aquifer in which they are completed."

The Authority will comment on the completed EIS. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please call Ms. Robin L. Tremallo, P.G., Environmental Coordinator, at (210) 477-5141, or by e-mail at [rtremallo@edwardsaquifer.org](mailto:rtremallo@edwardsaquifer.org).

Sincerely,

  
Gregory M. Ellis  
General Manager

GME:RLT/JH/ev

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