

#E1-631
RQ

February 22, 2004

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

received
2/24/04

Attn: Rini Ghosh

Re: Finance Docket No.34284

Dear Ms. Ghosh,

In response to the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, I am submitting the following to be considered in the formal scoping process.

I believe Vulcan's proposed quarry and proposed SGR rail line, regardless of where the railroad is constructed, are connected actions, and should be studied in the same Environmental Impact Statement. The study should include direct impacts and alternatives to both projects.

I respect Vulcan's ambition as a business to go above and beyond to get this project off and running. I believe that there are numerous locations across the United States that would be thrilled to have a company such as Vulcan bring potential jobs and economic growth to their area. That being said, residents of Quihi, and the residents of the surrounding proposed site, unanimously agree that we are not a one of these towns. Most of the people who live in our area have been here for generations, and those of us who recently joined the community came here for the peace, beauty, and surrealness that only the country has to offer. That would all be lost forever if Vulcan's plan to literally destroy our peaceful community was successful. A small historic town, that is filled with many fascinating stories, most told by fourth and fifth generation fellow Quishians, would all be but a memory. Landowners would likely sell, many dependent on the extra income brought in by the hunting industry. Big city hunters don't pay to hear trains and heavy machinery, if they wanted that they could stay home. I'd be lying if I said I was a wildlife expert, but my educated opinion would say doves, turkey, hogs, and whitetail deer aren't too keen on loud noise and heavy machinery either. I've never seen a wildlife show that had deer running through a beautiful meadow, while heavy machinery roared in the background. Then as the deer admired the cloud of dust coming from the limestone pit, it turned its head to run along next to the train that barreled through the untouched landscape. Ah yes, that is my favorite episode of National Geographic. I realize this may seem a bit overboard, but is it really? Please put yourself in our position, don't let the best lawyers money can buy, get away with what you and I know is morally wrong.

Sincerely,


Jonathan Aken & Family