

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD ISSUES SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR SOUTHWEST GULF RAILROAD'S
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION & OPERATION OF A RAIL LINE IN MEDINA COUNTY,
TEXAS**

The Surface Transportation Board (Board) announced today that its Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has issued the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the proposed construction and operation by Southwest Gulf Railroad Company (SGR) of approximately seven miles of new railroad line in Medina County, Texas.

SEA previously issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for public review and comment in this proceeding in 2004. The DEIS assessed four potential rail routes for SGR's proposed rail line to connect a proposed Vulcan Construction Materials, LP limestone quarry and the Del Rio subdivision of the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP), near Dunlay, TX, as well as the No-Action Alternative (the use of trucks to transport the limestone to the UP rail line if SGR's rail line were not built).

Based on the comments received on the DEIS, SEA decided to prepare the SDEIS to conduct additional historic property evaluation and analyze three additional rail routes to the east of the routes originally considered. The SDEIS preliminarily concludes that two of these eastern routes would be environmentally preferable to the routes previously studied in detail because they would avoid or minimize impacts to rural historic landscapes in the project area discovered during the course of the environmental review. The SDEIS also contains additional noise analysis based on updated operational data provided by SGR, indicating that trains may operate during nighttime hours.

SEA invites public comment on all aspects of the SDEIS. After public comments are received, SEA will prepare a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) responding to both the comments received on the SDEIS and the comments previously received on the DEIS; thus, there is no need for members of the public to repeat comments that have already been submitted. In making its final decision in this case, the Board will consider the entire environmental record, including all public comments, the DEIS, the SDEIS, the FEIS, and SEA's final environmental recommendations.

The public may comment on the SDEIS by submitting written comments (original and two copies) by **January 29, 2007** to the following address:

Attn: Rini Ghosh

**STB Docket No. FD 34284
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC 20423-0001**

Written comments may also be filed electronically on the Board's website, <http://www.stb.dot.gov>, by clicking on the "E-Filing" link.

The SDEIS was issued today in the case entitled [Southwest Gulf Railroad Company-- Construction and Operation Exemption--Medina County, TX, STB Finance Docket No. 34284](#). SEA has distributed the SDEIS to all parties of record (official participants), as well

as interested Federally recognized tribes, key governmental agencies, elected officials, and persons expressing an interest in receiving a copy of the SDEIS or participating in the environmental review process for this proceeding. SEA has made the SDEIS available for review in the Hondo Public Library (1011 19th Street) in Hondo, TX; the Castroville Public Library (802 London Street) in Castroville, TX; and the San Antonio Central Library (600 Soledad) in San Antonio, TX. A printed copy of the SDEIS is available for a fee by contacting **ASAP Document Solutions, 9332 Annapolis Rd., Suite 103, Lanham, MD 20706**, telephone **(202) 306-4004**, or via asapdc@verizon.net. The entire SDEIS is also available for viewing and downloading on the Board's website at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. For further information about the environmental review process for this proceeding, contact SEA's Project Manager for this project, **Rini Ghosh, at (202) 565-1539**.

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