



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

March 4, 2025

RE: Docket No. FD 36815, Texas Materials Group, Inc. – Construction and Operation Exemption – Line of Railroad in Burnet and Lampasas Counties, Texas; Preliminary Consultation

To Agency Representatives:

Texas Materials Group, Inc. (Texas Materials) is planning to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate a new rail line in Burnet and Lampasas Counties, Texas (Project). The Project would involve both reconstruction of rail line on a previously abandoned right-of-way¹ and construction of new rail line. As part of its licensing process, the Board will conduct an environmental review of the Project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321-4370m-11), and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 306108 (NHPA). Pursuant to NEPA, NHPA, and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will prepare an environmental document that evaluates the potential environmental and historic impacts of the Project.

OEA is writing to notify your agency about the Project and is requesting any comments or concerns that your agency may have to assist us in determining the appropriate scope and level of the environmental review for the Project.

Project Description

Texas Materials proposes to construct a total of 26.9 miles of new common carrier rail line that would connect to the Austin Western Railroad (AWRR) near the City of Burnet, and to the BNSF Railway (BNSF) near the City of Lampasas. Texas Materials would reconstruct approximately 12.5 miles of line on the right-of-way of a former rail line and construct 14.4 miles of new rail line as shown in **Attachment 1**.

¹ Finance Docket No. 16604, *Texas & New Orleans Railway Abandonment*, 282 I.C.C. 1 (1951)

Texas Materials has stated that the purpose of the proposed rail line would be to provide a new route for four quarries in the Burnet area to transport aggregates² by rail. Texas Materials' preferred route would provide a more direct path to and from the BNSF mainline near Lampasas and would also reduce congestion on the AWRR system in the Austin metropolitan area. According to Texas Materials, this new route is needed because the volumes of aggregate being shipped from the Burnet-area quarries are expected to increase over the next 10 years.

Texas Materials preliminarily estimates that an average of 1.64 trains per day would operate over the proposed rail line to and from the quarries. The planned trains would consist of up to 120 open top hopper and gondola cars pulled by four locomotives. The total length of the trains would be approximately 6,400 feet. Texas Materials anticipates that AWRR and potentially BNSF, via trackage rights, would operate on the proposed rail line.

Request for Comments

OEA is requesting any comments that your agency may have on the Project **by April 3, 2025**, so that OEA may begin the process of identifying the appropriate scope of the environmental review for the Project. To submit a response, select "File an Environmental Comment" on the Board's website at www.stb.gov (below the "Need Assistance?" button). Please make sure to refer to Docket No. FD 36815 in all correspondence, including e-filings, addressed to the Board. Brief comments can be typed in the comment field provided, and lengthier comments can be attached as Word, Adobe Acrobat, or other file formats.

You may also send written comments to Adam Assenza, OEA's Project Manager for the environmental review by mail to:

Adam Assenza
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD 36815
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

² Per the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (aem.org), "aggregates" are raw materials that are produced from natural sources and extracted from pits and quarries, including gravel, crushed stone, and sand.

We look forward to your participation in the environmental review process. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a call, please feel free to contact Adam Assenza of my staff at 202-245-0301 or by email at Adam.Assenza@stb.gov.

Sincerely,

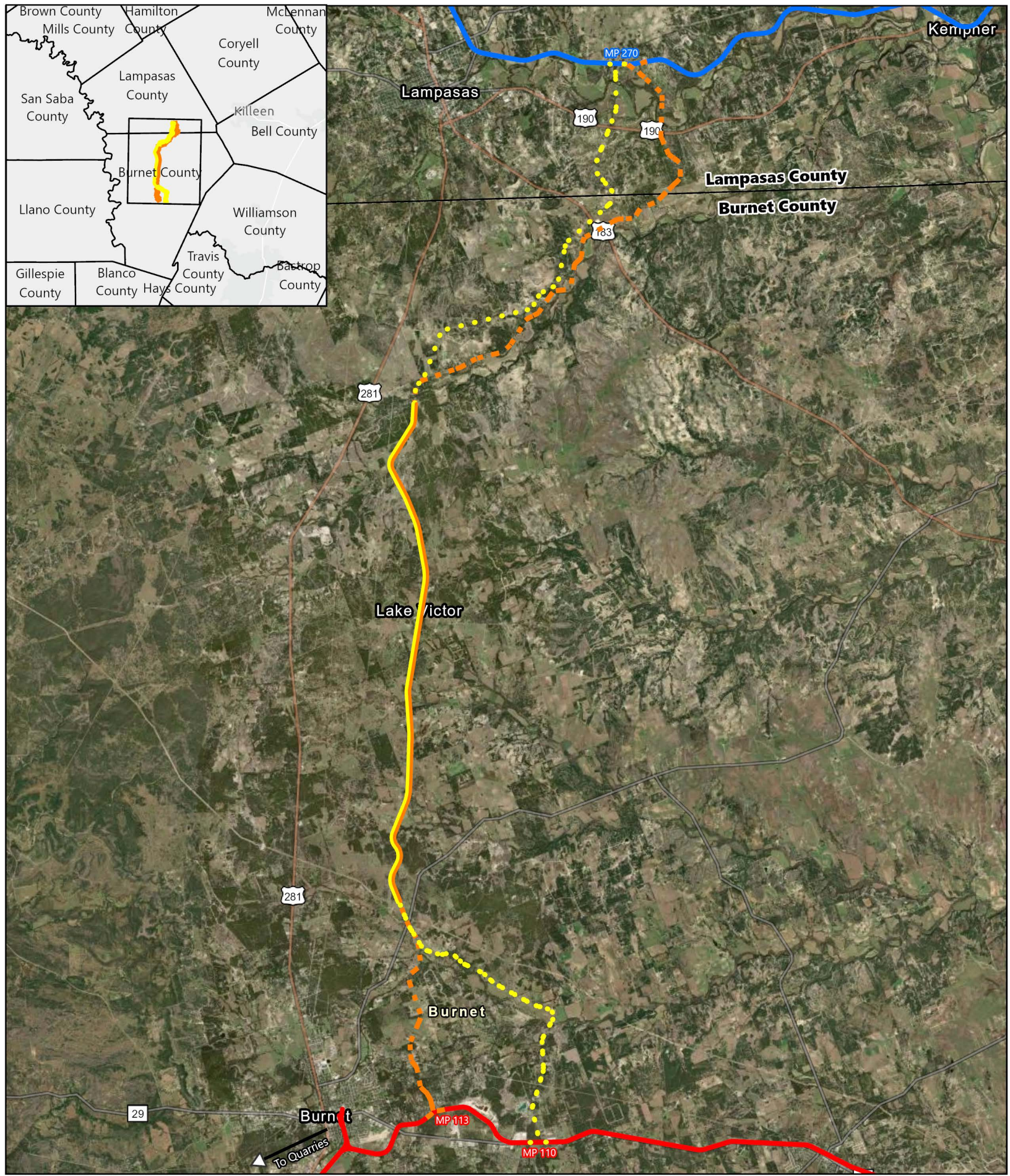
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danielle Gosselin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Danielle" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Gosselin".

Danielle Gosselin
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

Attachment 1: Proposed Rail Line Location Map

Attachment 2: Agency and Tribal Distribution List



New Right-of-Way

- Applicant's Preferred Alignment
- Applicant's Alternative Alignment

Existing Right-of-Way

- Applicant's Preferred Alignment
- Applicant's Alternative Alignment

- AWRR
- BNSF

0 1 2 4 Miles

**Attachment 1: Texas Materials
Proposed Rail Line - FD 36815**



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Attachment 2: Initial Agency and Tribal Distribution List

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Texas; Preliminary Consultation**

The below lists all federal, state, and local elected officials; federal, state and local agencies; tribal nations; and school districts contacted by the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in connection with the above referenced Docket No. FD 36815.

Federal, State, and Local Elected Officials

- United States Senator John Cornyn
- United States Senator Ted Cruz
- United States Congressman John Carter
- United States Congressman August Pfluger
- State Representative Ellen Troxclair
- State Representative David Spiller
- State Senator Pete Flores
- State Governor Greg Abbott
- County Judge, Burnet County, Texas
- Randall Hoyer, County Judge, Lampasas County, Texas
- Herb Pearce, Mayor, City of Lampasas, Texas
- Gary Wideman, Mayor, City of Burnet, Texas
- City of Lampasas City Council
- Jim Luther, Jr., Burnet County Commissioners Court Precinct 1
- Damon Beierle, Burnet County Commissioners Court Precinct 2
- Chad Collier, Burnet County Commissioners Court Precinct 3
- Joe Don Dockery, Burnet County Commissioners Court Precinct 4
- Bobby Carroll, Lampasas County Commissioners Court Precinct 1
- Jamie Smart, Lampasas County Commissioners Court Precinct 2
- Shad Hill, Lampasas County Commissioners Court Precinct 3
- Mark Rainwater, Lampasas County Commissioners Court Precinct 4

Federal Agencies

- Eunice Varughese, Director, Environmental Justice, Community Engagement, and
Environmental Review Division, EPA - Region 6 (South Central),
- Amy Lueders, Regional Director, USFWS - Southwest Region

- Christina Williams, USFWS - Austin Ecological Services Field Office
- Brandon Mobley, Chief, Compliance Branch, Regulatory Division, USACE - Fort Worth Military District
- Robert Morgan, Deputy Regional Director, Trust Services, BIA - Southern Plains Region
- Terry Bruner, Deputy Regional Director, Indian Services, BIA - Southern Plains Region
- Zuleika Morales-Romero, Field Office Director, HUD - San Antonio Field Office
- Earl Redrick, Field Office Director, HUD - Fort Worth Regional Office
- Tony Robinson, Administrator, FEMA - Region 6
- Dr. Shachak Pe'eri, Acting Director, NOAA - National Geodetic Survey
- Kristy Oates, State Conservationist, NRCS - Texas State Office

State Agencies

- Doug Booher, Division Director, Texas Department of Transportation - Environmental Affairs
- Greg Cedillo, P.E., District Engineer, Texas Department of Transportation - Brownwood District
- Christi Craddick, Chairman, The Railroad Commission of Texas
- Tucker Ferguson, P.E., District Engineer, Texas Department of Transportation - Austin District
- Joseph Bell, Executive Director and SHPO, Texas Historical Commission
- Mark Lambert, Deputy Director, Texas General Land Office (GLO) - Archives & Records
- Alan Cain, Director, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - Wildlife Division
- Jim Reed, Executive Director, Texas Association of Regional Councils - Central Texas Council of Governments
- Chris Miller, Executive Director, Texas Association of Regional Councils - Capital Area Council of Governments
- Ryan Vise, Director, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality - External Relations

Local Agencies

- Erin Corbell, City Manager, City of Lampasas - Administration
- Jody Cummings, Police Chief, City of Lampasas
- Joe Adams, Fire Chief, City of Lampasas
- Frank Ellett, Building Official, City of Lampasas - Building & Planning
- Becky Sims, Zoning Administrator, City of Lampasas - Building & Planning
- Mark Ingram, Fire Chief, City of Burnet
- Brian Lee, Police Chief, City of Burnet
- Eric Belaj, City Engineer, City of Burnet - Engineering
- Leslie Kimbler, Planning Manager, City of Burnet - Planning Department
- David Vaughn, City Manager, City of Burnet - Administration

Tribal Nations

- Durell Cooper, Chairman, Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- Martina Minthorn, THPO, Comanche Nation of Oklahoma
- Forrest Tahdooahnippah, Chairman, Comanche Nation of Oklahoma

- David Sickey, Chairman, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- Kristian Poncho, THPO, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- Russell Martin, President, Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Lauren Norman-Brown, THPO, Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Gary McAdams, THPO, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco & Tawakonie) of Oklahoma
- Amber Silverhorn-Wolfe, President, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco & Tawakonie) of Oklahoma

School Districts

- Dr. Aaron Peña, Superintendent, Burnet Consolidated ISD
- Dr. Jeff Gasaway, Superintendent, Marble Falls ISD
- Chane Rascoe, Ed.D., Superintendent, Lampasas ISD