

On May 26, 2008, *San Antonio Express-News* reporter Zeke MacCormack wrote an article about limestone quarries in Medina County. The article included the following excerpts about Martin Marietta's plans:

More quarries

Two huge new quarries are proposed in Medina County — by Vulcan Materials and Martin Marietta — but their potential effect on traffic is unclear, as both want to move most of their annual combined yield of 9 million tons of rock by rail.

"By utilizing rail to transport materials, we will alleviate the need for heavy truck traffic on Medina County roads," Martin Marietta said in a May 14 announcement of plans to invest at least \$50 million in a 1,200-acre quarry site near D'Hanis.

And with good limestone near existing Union Pacific tracks, it hopes to avoid public opposition like that facing Vulcan, which has been pursuing plans to open a quarry on 1,760 acre near Quihi since 1999.

"I felt like Bill Murray in 'Groundhog Day' when they told me about it," Medina County Judge Jim Barden said of Martin Marietta's plan.

But the two companies are taking different approaches to building the rail spurs they consider the most efficient way to get rock to buyers.

Martin Marietta, which plans to begin operations by 2012, bought land for its private 7 miles of track.

Vulcan is seeking federal Surface Transportation Board approval to build a "common carrier" rail line so it can condemn the land it needs where many property owners have barred tracks with deed restrictions.

Martin Marietta officials also tout their project's economic effect — forecasting 50 jobs paying \$40,000 a year — and environmental safeguards.

Larry Roberts, president of the company's southwest division, said no historic sites, karst limestone features — which hold water — or endangered species were found in a study of its site near D'Hanis.

"There are some issues that have arisen in Vulcan's process that we've worked hard not to share," Roberts said.

He predicted "very little" truck traffic at the new quarry and said talks are pending with the county on its rail spur crossing two county roads.