

J. Robert Planalp
 LANDOE, BROWN, PLANALP
 & REIDA, P.C.
 27 N. Tracy, P.O. Box 1
 Bozeman, MT 59771-0001
 (406) 586-4351

ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER, SHOSHONE
 CONDOMINIUM HOTEL OWNERS ASSOCIATION

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
 BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
 OF THE STATE OF MONTANA**

IN THE MATTER of the Complaint of)
 SHOSHONE CONDOMINIUM HOTEL)
 OWNERS ASSOCIATION, a Montana)
 Facility ,)
)
 Complainant,)
)
 v.)
)
 ABACO ENERGY SERVICES,)
 LLC, a North Dakota Limited Company,)
)
 Defendant.)

**UTILITY DIVISION
 DOCKET NO: D2013.9.71
 FIRST SET OF DATA
 REQUESTS TO ABACO
 ENERGY SERVICES, INC**

SCHOA - 001 Propane Contracts

For each year for the last 5 years for all propane sold, distributed or provided in the State of
 Montana provide:

- a) The name of the entity or user;
- b) The annual amount of propane distributed and sold per year to each user;
- c) The total annual revenue received from that customer or recipient;
- d) The cost per unit distributed, conveyed or sold to that customer;

e) If a contract exists, please provide a copy of the contract and the billing records.

RESPONSE:

SCHOA - 002 Method and Manner of Operation

Please describe in detail how ABACO sells, distributes or provides propane to recipients other than recipients located in Madison and Gallatin County Montana.

a) Please provide the name and business address of the person within ABACO most knowledgeable about this topic.

RESPONSE:

SCHOA - 003 Method and Manner of Operation

Please describe in detail the infrastructure, piping, plant equipment, trucks and other industrial or commercial infrastructure used to supply, sell or distribute propane to the above described entities;

a) Please provide the name and business address of the person within ABACO most knowledgeable about this topic.

RESPONSE:

SCHOA - 004 Method and Manner of Operation

Please describe in detail how ABACO sells, distributes, or provides propane to recipients within the community of Big Sky, Montana located in either Madison or Gallatin Counties;

a) Please list the customers to whom ABACO sells, distributes, services or provides propane located in either Madison or Gallatin Counties for each year for the last 5 years.

b) Please provide the name and business address of the person within ABACO most knowledgeable about this topic.

c) For each listed in (a) for each year for the last 5 years what was the total revenue received, the price per gallon, and how was each computed.

RESPONSE:

SCHOA - 005 Method and Manner of Operation

Please describe in detail the infrastructure, piping, plant equipment, trucks and other industrial or commercial infrastructure used to supply, sell or distribute propane that ABACO uses, owns, leases or has access to in providing propane to residents, users or customers within Gallatin or Madison County Montana;

a) Please provide any and all documents relating to ABACO's ownership, lease or right to possess the above described equipment and infrastructure.

b) Please provide the name and business address of the person within ABACO most knowledgeable about this topic.

RESPONSE:

SCHOA - 006 Method and Manner of Operation

In the Big Sky Resort Mountain Village overall development plan, November 30, 2015 it is written that "the existing propane system is owned, operated and maintained by ABACO Energy Services" (see page 10 attached). Please describe in detail the nature of the ownership, operation and maintenance of the existing propane system utilized to distribute propane within the Big Sky community.;

a) Please provide all documents which establish ABACO's right to own, lease or otherwise possess, utilize or have access to real property or improvements located thereon to be used for the existing propane system located in the Big Sky community.

b) Please provide the name and business address of the person within ABACO most knowledgeable about this topic.

RESPONSE:

SCHOA -007 Expansion of Customer and Infrastructure

Please describe with specificity each and every communication ABACO has had with Big Sky Resort or any of its related entities regarding the future development of the Big Sky Resort Mountain Village overall development plan;

a) Please provide all documents received from or provided to Boyne USA or its related affiliates regarding the expansion of the Big Sky Resort Mountain Village which is referenced in the November 30, 2015 development plan of Boyne.

b) Please provide the name and business address of the person within ABACO most knowledgeable about this topic.

RESPONSE:

SCHOA - 008 Expansion of Customers and Infrastructure

Please describe in detail how ABACO plans to sell, distribute or provide propane to Big Sky Resort new development known as the Big Sky Resort Mountain Village Overall Plan Development November 30, 2015;

a) Please provide any documents that relate to ABACO's plans to sell, distribute or provide Propane to Big Sky Resorts new development and expansion located at the Big Sky Resort Mountain Village.

b) Please provide the name and business address of the person within ABACO most knowledgeable about this topic.

RESPONSE:

SCHOA - 009 Expansion of Customers and Infrastructure

Please describe in detail how ABACO plans to change or modify any tank farm, piping, distribution lines available to ABACO, leased by ABACO, or used by ABACO to provide the future propane to the Big Sky Resort Mountain Village Overall Plan Development November 30, 2015;

a) Please provide any documents relating to ABACO's plans to change or modify the infrastructure to provide propane to the Big Sky Resort Mountain Village expansion as described in the overall plan development November 30, 2015.

b) Please provide the name and business address of the person within ABACO most knowledgeable about this topic.

RESPONSE:

SCHOA - 010 Financial Information

Please produce annually for the last 3 years the profit and loss statement and balance sheets of ABACO for any propane distributed, sold, or provided within the State of Montana;

a) Please provide the name and business address of the person within ABACO most knowledgeable about this topic.

RESPONSE:

SCHOA - 011 Financial Information

Please produce annually for the last 3 years the Federal and State income taxes of ABACO for any propane distributed, sold, or provided within the State of Montana;

a) Please provide the name and business address of the person within ABACO most knowledgeable about this topic.

RESPONSE:

SCHOA - 012 Infrastructure Operations

Please produce all documents relating to the use, ownership, access, control or maintenance or the tank farm and distribution system located in Gallatin or Madison Counties, Montana;

a) Please provide the name and business address of the person within ABACO most knowledgeable about this topic.

RESPONSE:

SCHOA - 013 Ownership of Infrastructure

Please produce all agreements and/or documents which identify land ownership, land lease, land rights of way, land easements or land entitlements for existing and future ABACO propane storage and distribution network infrastructure;

a) Please provide the name and business address of the person within ABACO most knowledgeable about this topic.

RESPONSE:

SCHOA - 014 Rate Making

Please produce all documents you intend to rely on to establish, propound or propose the rates or tariffs to be charged for propane;

a) Please provide the name and business address of the person within ABACO most knowledgeable about this topic.

RESPONSE:

SCHOA - 015 Rate Making

Please explain the methodology, model or mechanism you propose should be applied to ABACO to determine the rate or tariff it may charge for propane by the PSC;

a) Please provide the name and business address of the person within ABACO most knowledgeable about this topic.

RESPONSE:

SCHOA - 016 Cost of Service

For each year for the past 5 years please explain from whom and provide all documentation establishing the price paid for propane ABACO acquired which it distributed thereafter in the State of Montana;

a) Please provide the name and business address of the person within ABACO most knowledgeable about this topic.

RESPONSE

SCHOA - 017 Rate Making

For Fiscal year 2013, 2014, and 2015 please produce if not already produced;

- a) Balance sheets
- b) Income statements
- c) Statement of rate of return, taxes, depreciation and operating expenses with an allocation of such costs to services rendered
- d) Utility plant accounts
- e) Production and transmission plants

SCHOA - 018 Rate Making

For Fiscal year 2013, 2014, and 2015 please produce if not already produced;

- a) Accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization statements
- b) Statement of computation of working capital
- c) Statement showing the annual rate of return actually achieved

- d) Statement showing the debt capital and its cost
- e) Statement showing stock, member or equity capital in ABACO

SCHOA - 019 Rate Making

For Fiscal year 2013, 2014, and 2015 please produce if not already produced;

- a) Statement of operating and maintenance expense
- b) Statement showing the actual cost of propane purchased that was subject to distribution and sale by ABACO
- c) Statement of ABACO's operating revenues from sales of propane
- d) Statement of taxes paid for each year
- e) Statement how the price of propane was developed for each customer within the State of Montana

SCHOA - 020 Rate Making

For Fiscal year 2013, 2014, and 2015 please produce if not already produced;

- a) All documents and information relating to any rate design proposals that ABACO intends to submit to the Public Service Commission;
- b) For each category described Data Requests SCHOA 017, 018, 019 and 020, please identify, the name and working address of the person most familiar with the topics described in each sub-category.

SCHOA - 021 Costs of Transportation of Propane

For each of the last 5 fiscal years, describe what is the cost per gallon of transportation of propane from the refinery to the tank farm in Big Sky, Montana and how that is computed;

- a) Please provide the name and business address of the person within ABACO most knowledgeable about this topic.

SCHOA - 022 Cost of Transportation of Propane

For each of the last 5 fiscal years, describe what is the price per gallon to transport propane from the tank farm to the boiler owned or operated by Boyne or its affiliates including but not limited to the Shoshone Hotel, the Summit Hotel, the Yellowstone Convention Center and the commercial mall at the Mountain Village;

a) Please provide the name and business address of the person within ABACO most knowledgeable about this topic.

SCHOA - 023 Cost of Maintenance for Piping

For each of the last 5 fiscal years please describe what was the maintenance cost paid by ABACO from the tank farm to the Boilers owned or operated by Boyne USA or its related affiliates in;

a) Total annual amount

b) Price per gallon

c) Please provide the name and business address of the person within ABACO most knowledgeable about this topic.

SCHOA - 024 Cost of Maintenance for Piping

For each of the last 5 fiscal years what were the maintenance charges by ABACO to Boyne USA or other customers from the tank farm to boilers owned or operated by Boyne USA or its related entities;

a) Total annual amount


b) Price per gallon

c) Please provide the name and business address of the person within ABACO most knowledgeable about this topic.

RESPONSE:

Respectfully submitted this 7th day of January, 2016

LANDOE, BROWN, PLANALP & REIDA

By 
J. Robert Planalp
27 North Tracy
P.O. Box 1
Bozeman, MT 59771-0001

f. Utilities

The main dry utilities that exist in the Mountain Village are electric, propane and telephone. Electric service lines are owned, operated and maintained by NorthWestern Energy. The existing propane system is owned, operated and maintained by ABACO Energy Services. Telephone service within the ODP would be provided by 3 Rivers Communications, which currently has a well-established system throughout the Mountain Village.

NorthWestern Energy, ABACO and 3 Rivers Communications are each responsible for the engineering and installation of their facilities, while the applicant at the site development stage will be responsible financially. These providers have been notified of the development contemplated within the ODP, and their responses, if received, are included in Appendix VI-E.

Cable providers have been notified of this ODP and several subdivisions in the area. Currently, there is not a cable television provider in the Mountain Village. About a year ago, Bulldog Cable Company abandoned their entire cable television network in place, and notified their customers at that time that satellite television would be their only option for television. It is anticipated that future development, as contemplated in the ODP, will have to rely on satellite television, while the Village Core may be able to acquire television feed from 3 Rivers Communications in a VDSL configuration. However, satellite television would likely be a more favorable option for television even in the Village Core area.

The dry utilities are anticipated to be installed immediately after the water and sewer improvements are installed, while the road is still at subgrade. This approach eliminates damage to the road, gravel, culverts, fabric, etc., that would otherwise occur if the dry utilities were installed after the roadwork was complete. Utility easements are required as part of the subdivision process.

g. Emergency Services

Fire and ambulance services will be provided by the Big Sky Fire Department. Police services will be provided by the Gallatin County Sheriff's Department through a cooperative agreement with the Madison County Sheriff's Department. Their responses, if received, are included in Appendix VI-E.

In 1996-97 the Big Sky Fire District constructed the Mountain Village Fire Station, which includes overnight lodging, on Lone Mountain Trail on property that Boyne USA donated. The Fire Station is less than two miles from the center of the ODP. The Fire District continues to receive funding via the Resort Tax and property taxes.

The Fire District is currently working with Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) to prepare an Emergency Services Master Plan for the Big Sky Fire District. The Emergency Services Master Plan is partially funded by Big Sky Resort and Lone Mountain Land Company. The Master Plan will incorporate future system demand projections to identify response standards and targets; short and mid-term strategies; and recommended long-term strategies, with the ultimate goal of collating their findings and recommendations into a Final Master Plan by the end of 2015.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE BY MAIL

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 7th day of January, 2016, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was this day served as follows:

Kate Whitney
Will Rosquist
Justin Kraske
Jeremiah Langston
Public Service Commission
1701 Prospect Avenue
P.O. Box 202601
Helena, MT 59620-2601

- E-filed
- E- Mail
- Hand Delivered
- First Class Mail
- Overnight

Michael Green
Wiley Barker
Crowley Fleck, PLLP
900 N. Last Chance Gulch, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601

- E-filed
- E- Mail
- Hand Delivered
- First Class Mail
- Overnight

Robert Nelson
Monica Tranel
Office of the Montana Consumer Counsel
111 N. Last Chance Gulch, Suite 1B
P.O. Box 201703
Helena, MT 59620-1703

- E-filed
- E- Mail
- Hand Delivered
- First Class Mail
- Overnight

Kimberly Beatty
Browning Kaleczyc Berry & Hoven PC
800 N. Last Chance Gulch Suite 101
P.O. Box 1697
Helena, MT 59624

- E-filed
- E- Mail
- Hand Delivered
- First Class Mail
- Overnight

Barb Rooney
Boyne USA, Inc.
50 Big Sky Resort Road
P.O. Box 1600001
Big Sky, MT 59716

- E-filed
- E- Mail
- Hand Delivered
- First Class Mail
- Overnight

By: 