

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

In re:

EMERGE ENERGY SERVICES, LP, *et al.*<sup>1</sup>

Debtor.

Chapter 11

Case No. 19-11563 (KBO)

(Jointly Administered)

A-1 EXCAVATING, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

SUPERIOR SILICA SANDS LLC, and  
HPS INVESTMENT PARTNERS, LLC,

Defendants.

Adversary Proceeding No. 19-50730 (KBO)

**HPS INVESTMENT PARTNERS, LLC'S ANSWER AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

In accordance with Rule 7012 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, Defendant HPS Investment Partners, LLC (“**HPS**”) respectfully submits this Answer and Affirmative Defenses in response to the Complaint filed by Plaintiff A-1 Excavating, Inc. (“**Plaintiff**”) against HPS and Superior Silica Sands LLC (“**Superior**” or the “**Debtors**”). To the extent that claims and allegations in the Complaint are asserted against the Debtors and not HPS, HPS is not required to respond as no relief is sought from HPS. HPS reserves its rights to seek

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<sup>1</sup> The debtors in these chapter 11 cases (the “Debtors”), along with the last four digits of each of the Debtors’ federal tax identification number, are: Emerge Energy Services LP (2937), Emerge Energy Services GP LLC (4683), Emerge Energy Services Operating LLC (2511), Superior Silica Sands LLC (9889), and Emerge Energy Services Finance Corporation (9875). The Debtors’ address is 5600 Clearfork Main Street, Suite 400, Fort Worth, Texas 76109.



dismissal of the action against it on this basis. HPS denies all allegations in the Complaint not expressly admitted in this Answer.

**RESPONSE TO GENERAL STATEMENT**

1. The allegations in Paragraph 1 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS denies the allegations in Paragraph 1.

**RESPONSE TO JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

2. The allegations in Paragraph 2 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS admits that the Debtors filed for relief under chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code and the Debtors have continued to operate their businesses as debtors-in possession.

3. The allegations in Paragraph 3 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS admits that this proceeding has been filed pursuant to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7001(2) and (9).

4. The allegations in Paragraph 4 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS admits that this Court has jurisdiction over this matter, and this is a core proceeding.

5. The allegations in Paragraph 5 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS admits that venue in this Court is proper.

6. The allegations in Paragraph 6 state legal conclusions to which no response is required.

**RESPONSE TO PARTIES AND GENERAL BACKGROUND**

7. HPS denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 7, and on that basis denies the allegations in Paragraph 7.

8. The allegations in Paragraph 8 are not directed at HPS and therefore no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS admits the allegations in Paragraph 8.

9. HPS admits the allegations in Paragraph 9.

10. The allegations in Paragraph 10 are not directed at HPS and therefore no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS admits the allegations in Paragraph 10.

11. HPS denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 11, and on that basis denies the allegations in Paragraph 11.

12. HPS denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 12, and on that basis denies the allegations in Paragraph 12.

13. HPS denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 13, and on that basis denies the allegations in Paragraph 13.

14. HPS denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 14, and on that basis denies the allegations in Paragraph 14.

15. HPS denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 15, and on that basis denies the allegations in Paragraph 15. HPS further refers the Court to Exhibit A for a full statement of its terms.

16. HPS denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 16, and on that basis denies the allegations in Paragraph 16. HPS further refers the Court to Exhibit A for a full statement of its terms.

17. HPS denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 17, and on that basis denies the allegations in Paragraph 17. HPS further refers the Court to Exhibit A for a full statement of its terms.

18. The allegations in Paragraph 18 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations in Paragraph 18, and on that basis denies the allegations in Paragraph 18.

**RESPONSE BANKRUPTCY FILING AND POSTURE OF THE CASE**

19. HPS admits the allegations in Paragraph 19, and further refers the court to the *Motion (I) Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 105, 361, 362, 363, and 364 Authorizing the Debtors to (A) Obtain Senior Secured Priming Superpriority Postpetition Financing, (B) Grant Liens and Superpriority Administrative Expense Status, (C) Use Cash Collateral of Prepetition Secured Parties, and (D) Grant Adequate Protection to Prepetition Secured Parties; (II) Scheduling a Final Hearing Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rules 4001(b) and 4001(c); and (III) Granting Related Relief* [D.I. 20] (the “**Financing Motion**”) for a full statement of its terms.

20. HPS admits the allegations in Paragraph 20, and further refers the Court to the Financing Motion for a full statement of its terms.

21. HPS admits the allegations in Paragraph 21, and further refers the Court to the Financing Motion for a full statement of its terms.

22. HPS admits the allegations in Paragraph 22, and further refers the Court to the Financing Motion for a full statement of its terms.

23. HPS admits the allegations in Paragraph 23, and further refers the Court to the Financing Motion for a full statement of its terms.

24. HPS admits the allegations in Paragraph 24, and further refers the Court to the Financing Motion for a full statement of its terms.

25. HPS admits the allegations in Paragraph 25, and further refers the Court to the Financing Motion for a full statement of its terms.

26. HPS denies the allegations in Paragraph 26, except admits that A-1, along with other lien claimants, filed *Combined Objection of Market and Johnson, Inc., Stout Excavating Group LLC, and A-1 Excavating, Inc. to Debtors Motion (I) Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 105, 361, 362, 363, and 364 Authorizing the Debtors to (A) Obtain Senior Secured Priming Superpriority Postpetition Financing, (B) Grant Liens and Superpriority Expense Status, (C) Use Cash Collateral of Prepetition Secured Parties and (D) Grant Adequate Protection to Prepetition Secured Parties; (II) Scheduling a Final Hearing Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rules 4001(b) and 4001(c); and (III) Granting Related Relief* [D.I. 134] (the “**Combined Objection**”). HPS further refers the Court to the Combined Objection for a full statement of its terms.

27. HPS admits the allegations in Paragraph 27, and further refers the Court to the *Final Order (I) Authorizing the Debtors to (A) Obtain Postpetition Financing and (B) Use Cash*

*Collateral, (II) Granting Certain Protections to Prepetition Secured Parties, (III) Scheduling a Final Hearing, and (IV) Granting Related Relief* [D.I. 209] (the “**Final DIP Order**”) for a full statement of its terms.

28. HPS admits that the quoted language of Paragraph 28 appears in the DIP Financing Agreement, which is included as an attachment to the Final DIP Order, but denies any inferences suggested by Plaintiff, and further refers to the Court to the Final DIP Order for a full statement of its terms.

29. The allegations in Paragraph 29 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS denies the allegations in Paragraph 29.

30. The allegations in Paragraph 30 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS denies the allegations in Paragraph 30, except admits that the Final DIP Order provides for a 75 day “Challenge Period.” HPS further refers the Court to the Final DIP Order for a full statement of its terms.

31. The allegations in Paragraph 31 state legal conclusions to which no response is required.

32. The allegations in Paragraph 32 state legal conclusions to which no response is required.

33. HPS admits the allegations in Paragraph 33, and further refers the Court to the *First Amended Joint Plan of Reorganization for Emerge Energy Services LP and its Affiliate Debtors Under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code* [D.I. 362] (the “**Plan**”).

34. HPS admits the allegations in Paragraph 34, and further refers to the Court to the Plan for a full statement of its terms.

35. HPS admits the allegations in Paragraph 35, and further refers to the Court to the Plan for a full statement of its terms.

36. HPS admits the allegations in Paragraph 36, and further refers to the Court to the Plan for a full statement of its terms.

37. HPS admits that the quoted language in Paragraph 37 appears in the Plan, and further refers to the Court to the Plan for a full statement of its terms.

38. HPS admits the allegations in Paragraph 38, and refers the Court to the *Disclosure Statement for First Amended Joint Plan of Reorganization for Emerge Energy Services LP and Its Affiliate Debtors Under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code* [D.I. 363] (the “**Disclosure Statement**”) for a full statement of its terms.

39. HPS admits that the quoted language in Paragraph 39 appears in the Disclosure Statement, but otherwise denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 39, and on that basis denies the allegations in Paragraph 39.

### **RESPONSE TO COUNT I**

40. HPS incorporates by reference its Answer to Paragraphs 1–39 as if fully set forth herein.

41. HPS denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 41, and on that basis denies the allegations in Paragraph 41.

42. The allegations in Paragraph 42 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS denies the allegations in Paragraph 42.

43. The allegations in Paragraph 43 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS denies the allegations in Paragraph 43.

44. The allegations in Paragraph 44 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS denies the allegations in Paragraph 44.

45. The allegations in Paragraph 45 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS denies the allegations in Paragraph 45.

46. The allegations in Paragraph 46 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS denies the allegations in Paragraph 46.

47. The allegations in Paragraph 47 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS denies the allegations in Paragraph 47.

48. The allegations in Paragraph 48 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS denies the allegations in Paragraph 48.

49. HPS denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 49, and on that basis denies the allegations in Paragraph 49.

50. HPS denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 50, and on that basis denies the allegations in Paragraph 50.

51. HPS denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 51, and on that basis denies the allegations in Paragraph 51.



52. HPS denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 52, and on that basis denies the allegations in Paragraph 52.

53. HPS denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 53, and on that basis denies the allegations in Paragraph 53.

54. The allegations in Paragraph 54 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS denies the allegations in Paragraph 54.

55. The allegations in Paragraph 55 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS denies the allegations in Paragraph 55.

56. The allegations in Paragraph 56 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS denies the allegations in Paragraph 56.

57. The allegations in Paragraph 57 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS denies the allegations in Paragraph 57.

58. The allegations in Paragraph 58 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS denies the allegations in Paragraph 58.

59. The allegations in Paragraph 59 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS denies the allegations in Paragraph 59.

60. The allegations in Paragraph 60 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS denies the allegations in Paragraph 60.

61. HPS admits that according to the Debtors' Disclosure Statement and Plan, Debtors intend to retain the Barron Facility, and further refers the Court to the Disclosure Statement and Plan for a full statement of their terms.

62. HPS denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 62, and on that basis denies the allegations in Paragraph 62.

63. HPS denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 63, and on that basis denies the allegations in Paragraph 63.

64. HPS denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 64, and on that basis denies the allegations in Paragraph 64.

65. HPS denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 65, but admits that there is a controversy between A-1 and the Defendants.

66. The allegations in Paragraph 66 state legal conclusions to which no response is required.

### **RESPONSE TO COUNT II**

67. HPS incorporates by reference its Answer to Paragraphs 1–66 as if fully set forth herein.

68. The allegations in Paragraph 68 state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, HPS denies knowledge or information sufficient

to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 68, and on that basis denies the allegations in Paragraph 68.

69. The allegations in Paragraph 69 state legal conclusions to which no response is required.

70. The allegations in Paragraph 70 state legal conclusions to which no response is required.

71. The allegations in Paragraph 71 state legal conclusions to which no response is required.

72. The allegations in Paragraph 72 state legal conclusions to which no response is required.

### **RESPONSE TO PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

73. HPS admits that Plaintiff seeks relief from the Court, but denies Plaintiff is entitled to any relief.

### **FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

#### **(Failure to State a Claim)**

The Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted against HPS.

### **SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

#### **(Failure to Join a Necessary Party)**

The Complaint is barred, in whole or in part, as Plaintiff failed to join necessary parties.

**THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Standing)**

Plaintiff lacks standing to pursue the claims asserted in the Complaint.

**FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Equitable Doctrines)**

The relief sought is barred, in whole or in part, under the doctrines of estoppel, waiver, ratification, laches, acquiescence, in pari delicto, unclean hands, and/or other equitable doctrines.

**FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Breach of Contract)**

Plaintiff's claims are barred as Plaintiff breached an underlying contract with Superior.

**SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Failure to Mitigate)**

Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, because Plaintiff has failed to take appropriate and necessary steps to mitigate damages.

**SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Invalidity, Perfection, Lien Deficiency)**

Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, because Plaintiff has invalid, improperly filed, and/or unperfected lien(s), or if Plaintiff has any valid and perfected liens, they are not "Senior Liens" under the Final DIP Order and/or are junior to the liens of HPS.

**EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Improper Procedural Mechanism)**

Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, as this lawsuit is the improper judicial procedural mechanism to raise this dispute regarding a purported claim in the Debtors' bankruptcy case.

**NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Unripe Claim)**

Plaintiff's claims fail, in whole or in part, to the extent any claim is moot or not ripe for adjudication.

**TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Reservation of Defenses)**

As a separate affirmative defense to each alleged cause of action, the Complaint and each and every cause of action alleged therein is pleaded in a vague and conclusory fashion, and Debtor's discovery and investigation is ongoing. Debtor reserves the right to assert additional affirmative defenses and to supplement or modify this Answer upon revelation of more definitive facts and upon the undertaking of discovery and investigation in this matter.

**WHEREFORE**, HPS prays as follows:

- A. That the Court enter judgment in favor of HPS and dismiss the Complaint with prejudice;
- B. That Plaintiff's prayer for relief be denied;
- C. That this Court award HPS such other relief as it may deem just and proper.

Dated: December 23, 2019

/s/ Laura Davis Jones

PACHULSKI STANG ZIEHL & JONES LLP  
Laura Davis Jones (DE Bar No. 2436)  
Timothy P. Cairns (DE Bar No. 4228)  
919 N. Market Street, 17th Floor  
P.O. Box 8705  
Wilmington, DE 19899-8705 (Courier 19801)  
Telephone: (302) 652-4100  
Facsimile: (302) 652-4400  
Email: ljones@pszjlaw.com  
tcairns@pszjlaw.com

and

/s/ Matthew S. Barr

WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP  
Matthew S. Barr (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
David N. Griffiths (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
Candace Arthur (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
767 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10153  
Telephone: (212) 310-8000  
Facsimile: (212) 310-8007  
Email: matt.barr@weil.com  
david.griffiths@weil.com  
candace.arthur@weil.com  
alexander.condon@weil.com

*Counsel to HPS Investment Partners, LLC*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Laura Davis Jones, hereby certify that on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2019, I caused a copy of the following document to be served on the individuals on the attached service list in the manner indicated.

**HPS Investment Partners, LLC's Answer and Affirmative Defenses**

Dated: December 23, 2019

/s/ Laura Davis Jones

Laura Davis Jones (Bar No. 2436)

Emerge Energy-Adv. Service List  
Adv. 19-50728, Market & Johnson v Superior, HPS  
Adv. 19-50729, Stout Excavating v Superior, HPS  
Adv. 19-50730, A-1 Excavating v Superior, HPS  
Adv. 19-50732, Midwest Frac v Superior, HPS  
Doc #226359  
01-Hand Delivery  
01-First Class Mail

VIA HAND DELIVERY  
(Counsel to Plaintiff)  
Sullivan Hazeltine Allinson LLC  
Elihu E. Allinson, Esq.  
901 N. Market Street, Suite 1300  
Wilmington DE 19801

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL  
(Counsel to Plaintiff)  
Weld Riley, SC  
William E. Wallo, Esq.  
3624 Oakwood Hills Parkway  
Eau Claire, WI 54701



Emerge Energy Services 2002 Service List  
FCM  
Case No. 19-11563  
Document No. 224544  
20 – Hand Delivery  
46 – First Class Mail

*(Counsel to DIP Agent, DIP Lenders, and  
Prepetition Secured Parties)*

Laura Davis Jones, Esquire  
Timothy P. Cairns, Esquire  
Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP  
919 N. Market Street, 17th Floor  
P O Box 8705  
Wilmington, DE 19899 (Courier 19801)

**HAND DELIVERY**

*(US Trustee)*

Juliet M. Sarkessian, Esquire  
U.S. Trustee's Office  
844 King Street, Room 2207  
Lockbox #35  
Wilmington, DE 19899-0035

**HAND DELIVERY**

*(Counsel for the Debtors)*

John H Knight, Esquire  
Paul N Heath, Esquire  
Zachary I Shapiro, Esquire  
Brett M Haywood, Esquire  
Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A.  
One Rodney Square  
920 North King Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801

**HAND DELIVERY**

*(State Attorney General)*

Kathy Jennings, Esquire  
Delaware Department of Justice  
Carvel State Office Building, 6th Floor  
820 N. French Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801

**HAND DELIVERY**

Zillah A. Frampton  
Bankruptcy Administrator  
Delaware Division of Revenue  
Carvel State Office Building, 8th Floor  
820 N. French Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801

**HAND DELIVERY**

*(United States Attorney)*

David C. Weiss  
US Attorney's Office  
District of Delaware  
Hercules Building, Suite 400  
1313 N. Market Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801

**HAND DELIVERY**

*(Co-Counsel to the Debtors and Debtors in  
Possession)*

John H. Knight, Esquire  
Paul N. Heath, Esquire  
Richards, Layton & Finger  
One Rodney Square  
920 N. King Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801

**HAND DELIVERY**

*(Co-Counsel for B & B Electric, Inc. and  
RB Scott Company, Inc.)*

Evan T. Miller, Esquire  
Sophie E. Macon, Esquire  
Bayard, P.A.  
600 N. King Street, Suite 400  
Wilmington, DE 19801

**HAND DELIVERY**

*(Counsel to Tidewater Logistics  
Corporation)*

Patrick J. Reilley, Esquire  
Cole Schotz P.C.  
500 Delaware Avenue, Suite 1410  
Wilmington, DE 19801

**HAND DELIVERY**

(Counsel to Insight Equity)  
Jeffrey C. Wisler, Esquire  
Kelly M. Conlan, Esquire  
Connolly Gallagher LLP  
1201 N. Market Street, 20th Floor  
Wilmington, DE 19801

**HAND DELIVERY**

(Counsel to Trinity Industries Leasing Co.)  
Jarret P. Hitchings, Esquire  
Duane Morris LLP  
222 Delaware Avenue, Suite 1600  
Wilmington, DE 19801-1659

**HAND DELIVERY**

(Counsel for Waste Management)  
Rachel B. Mersky, Esquire  
Brian J. McLaughlin, Esquire  
Monzack Mersky McLaughlin and Browder,  
P.A.  
1201 N. Orange Street, Suite 400  
Wilmington, DE 19801

**HAND DELIVERY**

(Counsel for MUL Railcars, Inc. and MUL  
Railcars Leasing, LLC)  
David B. Stratton, Esquire  
Pepper Hamilton LLP  
Hercules Plaza  
1313 N. Market Street, Suite 5100  
P.O. Box 1709  
Wilmington, DE 19899-1709

**HAND DELIVERY**

(Counsel to the Official Committee of  
Unsecured Creditors of Emerge Energy  
Services LP, et al.)  
Jeremy W. Ryan, Esquire  
Christopher M. Samis, Esquire  
D. Ryan Slaugh, Esquire  
Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP  
1313 N. Market Street, Sixth Floor  
P.O. Box 951  
Wilmington, DE 19899

**HAND DELIVERY**

(Counsel for Pownall Services LLC)  
Lucian B. Murley, Esquire  
Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP  
1201 N. Market Street, Suite 2300  
P.O. Box 1266  
Wilmington, DE 19899

**HAND DELIVERY**

(Counsel to Market & Johnson, Inc.;  
Industrial Construction Specialists, LLC;  
EnDeCo Engineers, Inc.; Stout Excavating  
Group LLC; and A-1 Excavating, Inc.)  
Elihu E. Allinson III, Esquire  
Sullivan Hazeltine Allinson LLC  
901 N. Market Street, Suite 1300  
Wilmington, DE 19801

**HAND DELIVERY**

(Counsel to Caterpillar Financial Service  
Corporation)  
Matthew P. Ward, Esquire  
Morgan L. Patterson, Esquire  
Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP  
1313 N. Market Street, Suite 1200  
Wilmington, DE 19801

**HAND DELIVERY**

(Counsel for CIT Bank, N.A. and The CIT  
Group/Equipment Financing, Inc. ("CIT"))  
Sean M. Beach, Esquire  
Andrew L. Magaziner, Esquire  
Betsy L. Feldman, Esquire  
Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP  
Rodney Square  
1000 N. King Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801

**HAND DELIVERY**

(Counsel for Minnesota Commercial  
Railway Company)  
Deirdre M. Richards, Esquire  
Fineman Krekstein & Harris PC  
1300 N. King Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
Email: drichards@finemanlawfirm.com

**HAND DELIVERY**

(Counsel to Barron Electric Cooperative)  
Kate Roggio Buck, Esquire  
Shannon D. Humiston, Esquire  
Mccarter & English, LLP  
Renaissance Centre  
405 N. King Street, 8th Floor  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
Email: kbuck@mccarter.com;  
shumiston@mccarter.com

**HAND DELIVERY**

(Counsel to Midwest Frac and Sands LLC)  
Elihu E. Allinson III, Esq.  
Sullivan Hazeltine Allinson LLC  
901 North Market Street, Suite 1300  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
Email: zallinson@sha-llc.com

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(United States Attorney)  
Eric H. Holder, Jr., Esquire  
Office of the US Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 4400  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

State of Delaware  
Division of Corporations - Franchise Tax  
John G. Townsend Building, Suite 4  
401 Federal Street  
PO Box 898 (Zip 19903)  
Dover, DE 19901

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Delaware Secretary of Treasury  
820 Silver Lake Boulevard, Suite 100  
Dover, DE 19904

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Office of General Counsel  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20220

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Office of General Counsel  
Securities & Exchange Commission  
100 F Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20554

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Sharon Binger, Regional Director  
Philadelphia Regional Office  
Securities & Exchange Commission  
One Penn Center, Suite 520  
1617 JFK Boulevard  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Andrew Calamari, Regional Director  
New York Regional Office  
Securities & Exchange Commission  
Brookfield Place, Suite 400  
200 Vesey Street  
New York, NY 10281

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Office of the Chief Counsel  
Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation  
1200 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Internal Revenue Service  
Centralized Insolvency Operation  
PO Box 7346  
Mail Stop 5-Q30.133  
Philadelphia, PA 19101

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to DIP Agent, DIP Lenders, and  
Prepetition Secured Parties/Prepetition  
Agents)

Matthew S. Barr, Esquire  
David N. Griffiths, Esquire  
Candace M. Arthur, Esquire  
Alexander Condon, Esquire  
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP  
767 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10153

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to the Debtors and Debtors in  
Possession)

Keith A. Simon, Esquire  
Hugh K. Murtagh, Esquire  
Liza L. Burton, Esquire  
Latham & Watkins LLP  
885 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10022-4834

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Debtors  
Bryan Gaston  
Emerge Energy Services LP  
5600 Clearfork Main St. Ste 400  
Fort Worth, TX 76109

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(DIP Lender)  
Brett Pertuz  
HPS Investment Partners, LLC, as Agent  
40 West 57th Street, 33rd Floor  
New York, NY 10019

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to the Official Committee of  
Unsecured Creditors of Emerge Energy  
Services LP, et al.)  
Lenard M. Parkins, Esquire  
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP  
700 Louisiana Street, Suite 4300  
Houston, TX 77002

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to the Official Committee of  
Unsecured Creditors of Emerge Energy  
Services LP, et al.)

Todd C. Meyers, Esquire  
David M. Posner, Esquire  
Kelly Moynihan, Esquire  
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP  
The Grace Building  
1114 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10036

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Committee of Unsecured Creditors)  
Sean Hankinson  
The Andersons, Inc. an Ohio Corporation  
1947 Briarfield Boulevard  
Maumee, OH 43537

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Committee of Unsecured Creditors)  
Scott Ewing  
Trinity Industries Leasing Company  
2525 N. Stemmons Freeway  
Dallas, TX 75207

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Committee of Unsecured Creditors)  
Paul McCarthy  
BMT Consulting Group, LLC  
36 Redwood Drive  
Butte, MT 59701

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Committee of Unsecured Creditors)  
John Lawrence, Esquire  
Greenbrier Leasing Company, LLC  
One Centerpointe Drive, Suite 200  
Lake Oswego, OR 97035

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Committee of Unsecured Creditors)  
Dale Hoette  
Iron Mountain Trap Rock Co.  
2320 Creve Coeur Mill Road  
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to Oracle America, Inc.  
Shawn M. Christianson, Esquire  
Buchalter, A Professional Corporation  
55 Second Street, 17th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3493

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to Holt Texas, Ltd. d/b/a Holt Cat  
and d/b/a Holt Rental Services  
Zachary J. Fanucchi, Esquire  
Caldwell East & Finlayson PLLC  
700 N. St. Mary's Street, Suite 1825  
San Antonio, TX 78205

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to Tidewater Logistics  
Corporation)  
Daniel F.X. Geoghan, Esquire  
Matthew V. Dunn, Esquire  
Cole Schotz P.C.  
1325 Avenue of the Americas, 19th Floor  
New York, NY 10019

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to Tidewater Logistics  
Corporation)  
Michael D. Warner, Esquire  
Cole Schotz P.C.  
301 Commerce Street, Suite 1700  
Fort Worth, TX 76102

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to Investors Bank)  
Matthew G. Roseman, Esquire  
Cullen and Dykman LLP  
100 Quentin Roosevelt Boulevard  
Garden City, NY 11530-4850

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to Investors Bank)  
Michelle McMahon, Esquire  
Cullen and Dykman LLP  
44 Wall Street  
New York, NY 10005-2407

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel for Pownall Services LLC)  
Caroline Newman Small, Esquire  
Santos Vargas, Esquire  
Davis & Santos P.C.  
719 S. Flores Street  
San Antonio, TX 78204

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to Caterpillar Financial Service  
Corporation)  
James A. Plemmons, Esquire  
Michael L. Dallaire, Esquire  
Dickinson Wright PLLC  
500 Woodward Avenue, Suite 4000  
Detroit, MI 48226

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to Trinity Industries Leasing Co.)  
Omar J. Alaniz, Esquire  
Baker Botts LLP  
2001 Ross Avenue Suite 900  
Dallas, TX 75201-2980

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to Chicago Freight Car Leasing  
Co.)  
E. Todd Sable, Esquire  
Lawrence A. Lichtman, Esquire  
Honigman LLP  
2290 First National Building  
660 Woodward Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48226

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to Insight Equity Management  
Company LLC and Insight Equity)  
Timothy A. ("Tad") Davidson II, Esquire  
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP  
600 Travis Street, Suite 4200  
Houston, TX 77002

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to Insight Equity)  
Joseph Rovira, Esquire  
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP  
600 Travis Street  
Houston, TX 77002

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Attn Susanne Larson  
Internal Revenue Service  
31 Hopkins Plz Rm 1150  
Baltimore, MD 21201

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to Ward County, Bexar County,  
and Pecos County)  
Don Stecker, Esquire  
Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP  
711 Navarro Street, Ste 300  
San Antonio, TX 78205

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to Tarrant County)  
Elizabeth Weller, Esquire  
Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP  
2777 N. Stemmons Freeway Suite 1000  
Dallas, TX 75207

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to Claimants, The County of  
Comanche, Texas, The County of Irion,  
Texas and The County of Limestone, Texas)  
Tara LeDay, Esquire  
McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen, P.C.  
PO Box 1269  
Round Rock, TX 78680

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to the Oklahoma County  
Treasurer)  
Gretchen Crawford, Assistant District  
Attorney  
Oklahoma County Treasurer  
320 Robert S. Kerr, Room 505  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Co-Counsel for B & B Electric, Inc. and  
RB Scott Company, Inc.)  
John D. Leary, Esquire  
Ruder Ware, L.L.S.C.  
402 Graham Avenue  
PO Box 187  
Eau Claire, WI 54702

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to Union Pacific Railroad  
Company)  
Tonya W. Conley, Esquire  
Lila L. Howe, Esquire  
Union Pacific Railroad Company  
1400 Douglas Street, STOP 1580  
Omaha, NE 68179

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel for MUL Railcars, Inc. and MUL  
Railcars Leasing, LLC)  
Douglas J. Lipke, Esquire  
Allison B. Hudson, Esquire  
Vedder Price  
222 N. LaSalle Street  
Chicago, IL 60601

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to Di-Corp Sand Transloading LP)  
Steven M. Abramowitz, Esquire  
Vinson & Elkins LLP  
666 Fifth Avenue, 26th Floor  
New York, NY 10103-0040

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to Texas Comptroller of Public  
Accounts)  
Courtney J. Hull, Esquire  
c/o Sherri K. Simpson  
Attorney General's Office  
Bankruptcy & Collections Division  
PO Box 12548  
Austin, TX 78711-2548

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to Creditor Barron Electric  
Cooperative)  
Mary Beth Peranteau  
Wheeler, Van Sickle & Anderson, S.C.  
44 East Mifflin Street, Suite 1000  
Madison, WI 53703

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel for Minnesota Commercial  
Railway Company)  
Terri A. Running, Esquire  
Messerli Kramer  
1400 Fifth Street Towers  
100 South Fifth Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
Email: trunning@messerlikramer.com

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to Barron Electric Cooperative)  
Mary Beth Peranteau, Esquire  
Wheeler Van Sickle & Anderson, S.C.  
44 E. Mifflin St. Suite 1000  
Madison, WI 53703  
Email: mperanteau@wheelerlaw.com

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

(Counsel to Midwest Frac and Sands LLC)  
William E. Wallo, Esq.  
Weld Riley, S.C.  
3624 Oakwood Hills Parkway  
Eau Claire WI 54701  
Email: wwallo@weldriley.com