

LIME ENERGY CO.  
Form DEF 14A  
April 27, 2012  
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UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**SCHEDULE 14A**  
(RULE 14a-101)

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. )

Filed by the Registrant  X

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant  O

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

LIME ENERGY CO.  
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
  - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
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  - (1) Amount Previously Paid:
  - (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
  - (3) Filing Party:

(4)

Date Filed:

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16810 Kenton Drive, Suite 240

Huntersville, NC 28078

April 27, 2012

Dear Fellow Stockholder:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I cordially invite you to attend the 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held at 9:00 a.m., local time, on Tuesday, June 12, 2012 at the Huntersville Town Hall, 101 Huntersville Concord Road, Huntersville, NC 28078. The formal notice of the Annual Meeting appears on the following page.

The attached Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement contain detailed information about the matters that we expect to act upon at the Annual Meeting.

Please sign, date and specify your choices on the enclosed proxy card and promptly return it in the enclosed business reply envelope. This will help insure that your shares are represented at the Annual Meeting, whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting. If you attend the meeting, you may revoke your proxy and personally cast your vote.

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting and urge you to return your proxy card as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

/s/ John O Rourke  
Lime Energy Co.  
John O Rourke

President and Chief Executive Officer

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LIME ENERGY CO.

16810 Kenton Drive, Suite 240

Huntersville, NC 28078

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To be held June 12, 2012

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To the Stockholders of

**LIME ENERGY CO.:**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Lime Energy Co. will be held at the Huntersville Town Hall, 101 Huntersville Concord Road, Huntersville, NC 28078 at 9:00 a.m. local time, on Tuesday, June 12, 2012, for the following purposes:

1. To elect seven directors to our Board of Directors; and
2. To ratify the appointment of BDO USA, LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year 2012.

Stockholders will also transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof. As of the date of this notice, our Board of Directors knows of no other proposals or matters to be presented.

The foregoing items of business are more fully described in the proxy statement accompanying this notice. This proxy statement is accompanied by a copy of the annual report to stockholders. The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on April 13, 2012 as the record date for determining stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Directors encourages you to complete, sign and date the enclosed proxy card and promptly return it in the enclosed postage prepaid envelope, regardless of whether you plan to attend the Annual Meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ David R. Asplund  
David R. Asplund  
*Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors*

Huntersville, North Carolina

April 27, 2012

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**LIME ENERGY CO.**

16810 Kenton Drive, Suite 240

Huntersville, NC 28078

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**PROXY STATEMENT**

FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To be held Tuesday, June 12, 2012

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

This proxy statement and the enclosed proxy card are being furnished to our stockholders in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of Lime Energy Co., a Delaware corporation, for use at our Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held at the Huntersville Town Hall, 101 Huntersville Concord Road, Huntersville, NC 28078 at 9:00 a.m. local time, on Tuesday, June 12, 2012, and any adjournments thereof. This proxy statement and the accompanying form of proxy are first being mailed to stockholders on or about April 27, 2012.

A copy of our 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 has been mailed to you. Our proxy statement for the Meeting and the 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K can be viewed on our website at <https://materials.proxyvote.com/53261U>.

We use the terms Lime Energy, the Company, we, our and us in this proxy statement to refer to Lime Energy Co. and its consolidated subsidiaries, unless the context otherwise requires.

**Solicitation**

The cost of this proxy solicitation will be borne by Lime Energy. We may request banks, brokers, fiduciaries, custodians, nominees and certain other record holders to send proxies, proxy statements and other materials to their principals at our expense. Those banks, brokers, fiduciaries, custodians, nominees and other record holders will be reimbursed by us for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses of solicitation. We do not anticipate that costs and expenses incurred in connection with this proxy solicitation will exceed an amount normally expended for a proxy solicitation for an election of directors in the absence of a contest. In addition to soliciting proxies by mail, we and our directors, officers and regular employees may also solicit proxies personally, by telephone or by other appropriate means. No additional compensation will be paid to directors, officers or other regular employees for such services.

**Record Date and Outstanding Shares**

Our Board of Directors fixed the close of business on April 13, 2012 as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting or any adjournments thereof. As of the close of business on the record date, we had 24,150,651 shares of common stock with voting rights as to certain matters outstanding. Each outstanding share of common stock on such date is entitled to one vote on each matter to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

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**Required Vote**

The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of common stock voted in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting is required to elect the nominees to the Board of Directors and to ratify the appointment of our independent auditors. Stockholders do not have any rights to cumulate their votes in the election of directors.

**Quorum; Abstentions and Broker Non-Votes**

The required quorum for transaction of business at the Annual Meeting will be a majority of the total votes of the shares of common stock issued and outstanding as of the record date. Votes cast by proxy or in person at the Annual Meeting will be tabulated by the election inspector appointed for the meeting and will be taken into account in determining whether or not a quorum is present. Abstentions and broker non-votes, which occur when a broker has not received customer instructions and indicates that it does not have the discretionary authority to vote on a particular matter on the proxy card, will be included in determining the presence of a quorum at the Annual Meeting. Abstentions will have the effect if a vote against the proposal. Broker non-votes will not be counted, and therefore will have no effect on the outcome on any of the proposals.

Unless you provide voting instructions to any broker holding shares on your behalf, your broker may not use discretionary authority to vote your shares on any of the matters to be considered at the annual meeting other than the ratification of our independent registered public accounting firm. Please vote your proxy so your vote can be counted.

**Voting of Proxies; Revocability of Proxies**

Our Board of Directors selected Jeffrey R. Mistarz and Anne Berg, the persons named as proxies on the proxy card accompanying this proxy statement, to serve as proxies. Mr. Mistarz is our executive vice president, chief financial officer, treasurer and corporate secretary, and Ms. Berg is our general counsel and assistant secretary. The shares of common stock represented by each executed and returned proxy will be voted in accordance with the directions indicated thereon, or if no direction is indicated, the proxy will be voted in accordance with the recommendations of the Board of Directors contained in this proxy statement.

All stockholders may vote in person at the Annual Meeting. You may also be represented by another person at the Annual Meeting by executing a proper proxy designating that person. If you are a beneficial owner of shares, you must obtain a legal proxy from your broker, bank or other holder of record and present it to the inspectors of election with your ballot to be able to vote at the Annual Meeting.

You can revoke a proxy you have given at any time before the shares it represents are voted by giving our secretary either (1) an instrument revoking the proxy or (2) a duly executed proxy bearing a later date. Additionally, you may change or revoke a previously executed proxy by voting in person at the Annual Meeting. However, your attendance at the Annual Meeting will not, by itself, revoke your proxy.

**Dissenter s Right of Appraisal**

There is no proposal or matter that will be acted upon in the meeting that would grant dissenting stockholders the right of appraisal.

**Annual Report to Stockholders**

We are simultaneously furnishing to you with this proxy statement our Annual Report to

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Stockholders for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, which contains financial and other information pertaining to us.

**Multiple Stockholders Sharing the Same Address**

Owners of common stock who hold their shares in a brokerage account may receive a notice from their broker stating that only one proxy statement will be delivered to multiple security holders sharing an address. This practice, known as householding, is designed to reduce printing and postage costs. However, if any stockholder residing at such an address wishes to receive a separate proxy statement, he or she may contact our Corporate Secretary at Lime Energy Co., 16810 Kenton Drive, Suite 240, Huntersville, NC 28078 or by telephone at (704) 892-4442.

Table of Contents**PROPOSAL 1****ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

At the Annual Meeting, seven nominees to the Board of Directors will be elected to hold office for a one year term ending at our 2013 Annual Meeting of stockholders or until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified. All nominees listed below are currently members of our Board of Directors and have consented to being named in this proxy statement and to serve as directors, if elected. If, at the time of the Annual Meeting, any nominee becomes unavailable or declines to serve as a director for any reason, the persons named in the proxy will vote for the substitute nominee(s) as the Board of Directors recommends, or vote to allow the vacancy created by the nominee who is unable or declines to serve to remain open until filled by the Board of Directors, as the Board of Directors recommends. The Board of Directors has no reason to believe that any nominee will be unable or decline to serve if elected to office. The Board has set the size of the Board of Directors at ten members. There currently three vacancies, which the Board is seeking to fill. To date it has not identified qualified candidates to fill these. Under our by-laws, the Board may appoint directors to fill these vacancies until the next annual meeting of stockholders or set the size of the Board at a number of directors ranging from three to twelve.

**Nominees for Director**

The following table presents the names of the director nominees as well as certain information about them. Proxies cannot be voted for a greater number of persons than the number of nominees named.

| <b>Name</b>          | <b>Age</b> | <b>Position Held with the Company</b>           | <b>Served as Director Since</b> |
|----------------------|------------|---|---------------------------------|
| David R. Asplund     | 54         | Executive Chairman of the Board                 | 2002                            |
| Gregory T. Barnum    | 56         | Director (1)(2)                                 | 2006                            |
| Christopher W. Capps | 28         | Director (1)                                    | 2009                            |
| Joseph F. Desmond    | 47         | Director (1)(3)                                 | 2007                            |
| Stephen Glick        | 64         | Director (2)(3)                                 | 2009                            |
| Richard P. Kiphart   | 69         | Lead Independent Director (2)(3)                | 2006                            |
| John O. Rourke       | 51         | Director; President and Chief Executive Officer | 2011                            |

- 
- (1) Member of our Audit Committee.
- (2) Member of our Compensation Committee.
- (3) Member of our Governance and Nominating Committee.

Below, we provide the following information for each director and Board of Directors nominee:

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- principal occupations for at least the past five years
- the names of any other public companies where the nominee or director currently serves as a director or has served during the past five years
- the particular experience, qualifications, attributes or skills that led the Board to conclude that the person should serve as a director for the company

**David R. Asplund** was our chief executive officer from January 2006 to May 2011 and has continued to serve as an executive officer as our executive chairman since May 2011. Prior to becoming our chief executive officer, Mr. Asplund was President of Delano Group Securities, LLC, an investment banking firm in Chicago, Illinois, which he founded in 1999. Prior to founding Delano, Mr. Asplund was a senior managing director of Bear Stearns and Branch Manager of their Chicago office. Prior to joining Bear



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Stearns, he held positions with Morgan Stanley and Lehman Brothers. Mr. Asplund is currently on the Rush University Medical Center Cancer Institute Leadership Committee, was previously a director of AgeNet, Inc., a private corporation operating a national eldercare network, and chairman of the Securities Industry Association, Midwest District and a former managing member of Augustine Capital Management, LLC, an advisor to a private equity fund. Mr. Asplund holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Minnesota and graduate of the Management Leadership Institute Program of the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Asplund's investment banking and engineering background and prior experience leading the Company qualify him for his position on the Lime Energy board.

**Gregory T. Barnum** is currently the vice president of finance, chief financial officer and corporate secretary of Datalink Corporation, a provider of data center infrastructure services. Prior to joining Datalink in March 2006, Mr. Barnum was the vice president of finance, chief financial officer and corporate secretary of Computer Network Technology Corporation since July 1997. From September 1992 to July 1997, Mr. Barnum served as senior vice president of finance and administration, chief financial officer and corporate secretary at Tricord Systems, Inc., a manufacturer of enterprise servers. From May 1988 to September 1992, Mr. Barnum served as the executive vice president, finance, chief financial officer, treasurer and corporate secretary for Cray Computer Corporation, a development stage company engaged in the design of supercomputers. Prior to that time, Mr. Barnum served in various accounting and financial management capacities for Cray Research, Inc. Mr. Barnum is a Certified Public Accountant and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Mr. Barnum also serves on the Board of Wireless Ronin Technologies, Inc. Mr. Barnum's 20+ years of accounting experience and experience as a chief financial officer of publicly traded companies qualify him to serve on our board of directors and act as a financial expert.

**Christopher W. Capps** served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Advanced Biotherapy, Inc. from August 2006 until we acquired Advanced Biotherapy, Inc., on March 3, 2010. Since September 2005, Mr. Capps has also served as President and CEO of KGC Partners, a private equity firm. Mr. Capps's experience working with small and mid-sized companies and knowledge of current corporate finance techniques and market activities qualifies him to serve on our board.

**Joseph F. Desmond** has served as Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and Communications at BrightSource Energy, Inc. since August 2011. Prior to joining BrightSource, Mr. Desmond served as Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing & Business Development Officer of Ice Energy, Inc., a provider of intelligent energy storage solutions to the utility industry, from August 2010 to August 2011. From November 2006 to May 2010, Mr. Desmond served as the Senior Vice President, External Affairs for NorthernStar Natural Gas, a developer of liquefied natural gas import terminals. From May 2005 to November 2006, Mr. Desmond served as Chairman of the California Energy Commission. From May 2006 to November 2006, Mr. Desmond also served as the Under Secretary for Energy Affairs in the California Resources Agency. Prior to his public service for the State of California, Mr. Desmond served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Infotility, Inc., an energy consulting and software development firm based in Boulder, Colorado. From 1997 to 2000, Mr. Desmond was President and Chief Executive Officer of Electronic Lighting, Inc., a manufacturer of controllable lighting systems, and from 1991 to 1997, a Vice President of Parke Industries, Inc., an energy efficient lighting systems company. Mr. Desmond serves on the Board of Directors for the American Council On Renewable Energy (ACORE), the Board of Directors for the California Foundation for Energy and the Environment (CFEE). Mr. Desmond's extensive energy background and leadership skills, both in private industry and state government, make him qualified to serve on our board.

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**Stephen Glick** has been one of our directors since July 2009. Mr. Glick was the President of Applied Energy Management, Inc., a company he founded in 1984, until we acquired the company in June 2008. Mr. Glick's 20+ years of experience running an energy efficiency business serving some of the nation's largest ESCOs makes him qualified to serve on our board.

**Richard P. Kiphart** is currently the head of the Private Client Advisors group and a principal of William Blair & Company for over 43 years. In addition, Mr. Kiphart is currently chairman of Ranair Inc. and the former chairman of Nature Vision and The Merit Music School, and is currently the president and chief executive officer of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the chairman of the Erikson Institute and serves on the board of Children's Memorial Hospital and Columbia College. Mr. Kiphart's leadership skills and extensive investment banking experience, as well as his experience serving on numerous boards makes him qualified to serve on our board.

**John O. Rourke** has served as our president and chief executive officer since May 2011. From February 2010 to May 2011 he served as our chief operating officer. Mr. O. Rourke was previously president and chief executive officer of our subsidiary, Lime Energy Services Co. (fka Applied Energy Management, Inc.), which we acquired in June 2008. Prior to joining Applied Energy Management, Mr. O. Rourke was the president of Landmark Service Company, LLC from July 2003 until September 2004, when the company was acquired by Applied Energy Management. Prior to working at Landmark, he was vice president of engineering and operations at Duke Solutions, a Duke Energy subsidiary. Mr. O. Rourke currently serves on the Board of the National Association of Energy Services Companies (NAESCO). Mr. O. Rourke's industry experience and responsibility for executing the Company's strategic plan qualify him for his position on the Lime Energy board.

**The Board of Directors recommends that the stockholders vote**

**FOR**

**the election of all of the director nominees.**

**Leadership Structure and Role in Risk Oversight**

The Company's board leadership structure separates the roles of board chair and principal executive officer roles. When the board chair is not an independent director, an independent director is designated as the lead director. At present, David Asplund, an executive officer of the company, is the executive chairman of the board, Richard Kiphart is the lead director and John O. Rourke is the chief executive officer. The Company determines the leadership structure it deems appropriate based on factors such as the experience and availability of the applicable individuals, the current business environment of the Company or other relevant factors. After considering these factors, the Company believes that separating the positions of chairman of the board, lead director and chief executive officer is the appropriate board leadership structure at this time, allowing our chief executive officer to focus on the business strategy and operations of the Company, while our executive chairman provides leadership to the Board necessary for the Board to fulfill its responsibilities and the lead director provides independent perspective on the Board's activities. In the future, the Company may determine that combining some of these positions may be the best structure for operating the Company, based on the factors at that time or, if the board chair is an independent director, that there is no need to separately designate a lead director.

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The Board of Directors is responsible for oversight of the Company's risk management practices while management is responsible for the day-to-day risk management processes. In the Board's opinion, this division of responsibilities is the most effective approach for addressing the risks facing the Company, and the Company's board leadership structure supports this approach. The Board receives periodic reports from management regarding the most significant risks facing the Company. In addition, the Audit Committee assists the Board in its oversight role by receiving periodic reports regarding the Company's risk and control environment.

**Diversity**

The Board does not have a formal policy with respect to Board nominee diversity. In recommending proposed nominees to the full Board, the Nominating Committee is charged with building and maintaining a board that has an ideal mix of talent and experience to achieve our business objectives in the current environment. In particular, the Nominating Committee is focused on relevant subject matter expertise, depth of knowledge in key areas that are important to us, and diversity of thought, background, perspective and experience so as to facilitate robust debate and broad thinking on strategies and tactics pursued by us.

**Family Relationships**

The only family relationship between any of our directors and officers is that Mr. Kiphart is the father-in-law of Mr. Capps.

**Director Attendance**

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, the Board of Directors held five formal meetings. In addition, there were four meetings of the Audit Committee and two meetings of the Compensation Committee. During 2011, all members of the Board of Directors attended at least 75% of the total of all board meetings and applicable committee meetings. We encourage our Board members to attend our Annual Meeting, but we do not have a formal policy requiring attendance. All of our Board members, except Mr. Desmond, attended last year's Annual Meeting.

**Independent Directors**

Of the seven directors currently serving on the Board, all of whom are director nominees at the next Annual Meeting, the Board has determined that each of Messrs. Barnum, Capps, Desmond, Glick and Kiphart are independent as defined in NASDAQ Rule 5605(a)(2). Messrs. Asplund and O'Rourke are not considered independent because they also serve as our executive officers.

Table of Contents**COMPENSATION OF DIRECTORS****Director Compensation Program**

Effective April 1, 2000, we adopted a stock option plan for all non-employee directors that was separate and distinct from our employee incentive plans. The plan was amended on July 11, 2006 to provide that eligible directors receive an initial option grant upon being appointed to our Board of Directors to purchase 14,286 shares of our common stock, and a grant of options to purchase an additional 7,143 shares on the first day of January beginning on the second January following the date the director became an eligible director. These options had an exercise price equal to the closing price of our common stock on the grant date and a term of ten years. The initial options vested on first day of January following the initial grant date or six months following the initial grant date, whichever is later, if the individual is still a director on the vesting date.

The Directors Plan was replaced in June 2010 by the 2010 Non-Employee Directors Stock Plan. The 2010 Directors Plan provides for the granting of stock to Non-Employee directors to compensate them for their services to the Company. The use of the shares available under the 2010 Directors Plan is administered by the Company's Board of Directors, which has delegated its powers to the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors. The Compensation Committee has determined under the 2010 Directors Plan to grant non-employee directors restricted shares of Company stock with the following market values on the date of grant:

|                                      | <b>Market Value of Grant</b> |        |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------|
| <b>For Board Service:</b>            |                              |        |
| Each director upon initial election: | \$                           | 40,000 |
| Annual grant to each director:       | \$                           | 20,000 |
| <b>For Committee Service:</b>        |                              |        |
| <u>Audit Committee:</u>              |                              |        |
| Chairman                             | \$                           | 15,000 |
| Members                              | \$                           | 10,000 |
| <u>Compensation Committee:</u>       |                              |        |
| Chairman                             | \$                           | 10,000 |
| Members                              | \$                           | 5,000  |
| <u>Nominating Committee:</u>         |                              |        |
| Chairman                             | \$                           | 5,000  |
| Members                              | \$                           | 2,500  |

Half of the shares received pursuant to this plan vest immediately and the remaining shares vest on the one year anniversary of the initial grant, or in the case of grants for committee service, on the date that the term of the service ends, typically the date of our annual meeting of stockholders. Shares for Board service are granted on the first business day of the year and shares for committee service are granted upon appointment to the committee following the annual meeting of stockholders. Newly appointed directors receive their initial grant on a prorated basis on their date of appointment.



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During 2011, we granted 31,684 shares of restricted stock to directors for their service to the Board and 14,769 shares for service on Board committees. Of these shares, 39,069 shares vested during 2011 and 7,384 will vest in June 2012, if the holder is still a member of the committee on the vesting date.

Directors who are also our employees receive no additional compensation for their services as directors.

**Director Compensation Table**

The following table provides compensation information for the year ended December 31, 2011 for each of our non-executive directors.

| Name                             | Fees Earned or<br>Paid in Cash<br>(\$) | Stock Awards<br>(\$ (1)) | Option Awards<br>(\$) | All Other<br>Compensation (\$) | Total<br>(\$) |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Gregory T. Barnum</b>         |  | 39,996                   |                       |                                | 39,996        |
| <b>Christopher Capps</b>         |  | 29,995                   |                       |                                | 29,995        |
| <b>William R. Carey, Jr. (2)</b> |  | 29,995                   |                       |                                | 29,995        |
| <b>Joseph F. Desmond</b>         |  | 32,494                   |                       |                                | 32,494        |
| <b>Stephen Glick</b>             |  | 19,998                   |                       |                                | 19,998        |
| <b>Pradeep Kapadia (3)</b>       |  | 8,928                    |                       |                                | 8,928         |
| <b>Richard P. Kiphart</b>        |  | 32,494                   |                       |                                | 32,494        |

(1) Represents the grant date market value of shares granted during 2011.

(2) Mr. Carey resigned from the Board on January 5, 2012.

(3) Mr. Kapadia resigned from the Board on January 3, 2012.

**Committees of the Board of Directors**

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The Board of Directors has an Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and a Governance and Nominating Committee.

### *Audit Committee*

The Audit Committee, which is composed entirely of non-employee, independent directors, held four meetings during 2011. Each of the members of the Audit Committee attended at least 75% of the meetings of the Committee held in 2011. The Audit Committee meets periodically and separately in executive sessions with management and the independent auditors to review the activities of each. The Audit Committee possesses and may exercise the powers of the Board of Directors relating to our accounting, auditing, and financial reporting matters, except when such powers are by statute, the Certificate of Incorporation or Bylaws reserved to the full Board or delegated to another committee of the Board. The Audit Committee reports regularly to the full Board on these matters. The Audit Committee is

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directly responsible for the appointment, compensation, and oversight of our independent auditors. Among other duties, the Audit Committee:

- recommends the independent auditors to the Board;
- pre-approves all audit and non-audit services provided to us by the independent auditors;
- monitors the independence of the independent auditors;
- reviews and approves:
  - the scope and timing of work to be performed by the independent auditors
  - compensation to be paid to the independent auditors
  - financial accounting and reporting principles used by the Company
  - results of the audit and the report of the independent auditors
  - transactions involving the Company and our officers, directors, affiliates and significant stockholders
  - discusses our annual audited financial statements and quarterly financial statements with management and the independent auditors;
  - considers allegations made, if any, of possible financial fraud or other financial improprieties;



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- prepares an Audit Committee report as required by the SEC to be in this proxy statement; and
- reviews and reassesses the adequacy of the Audit Committee charter at least annually.

The Audit Committee's current members are directors Greg Barnum (Committee Chairman), Christopher Capps and Joseph Desmond. Our Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Barnum qualifies as an audit committee financial expert as defined in Item 407(d)(5) of SEC Regulation S-K. The Board also believes that Messrs. Barnum, Desmond and Capps are independent as defined by NASDAQ Rule 5605(a)(2). The Board of Directors adopted an Audit Committee Charter effective April 19, 2000, which was amended effective January 31, 2001 to combine the Conflicts Committee with the Audit Committee. A copy of the Audit Committee's charter is available on our website ([www.lime-energy.com](http://www.lime-energy.com)) under the heading Investors.

### *Compensation Committee*

The Compensation Committee, which is composed of three independent directors Richard Kiphart (Committee Chairman), Greg Barnum and Stephen Glick, was formed in 2001 upon the Board of Directors' adoption of a Compensation Committee charter. The Compensation Committee held two meetings during 2011, each of which was attended by all members. A copy of the Compensation Committee's charter is available on our website ([www.lime-energy.com](http://www.lime-energy.com)) under the heading Investors. The Compensation Committee's responsibilities are to:

- review and recommend to the Board of Directors the annual salary, bonus, stock options and other benefits of our senior executives;
- review executive compensation programs and the administration thereof;
- plan for executive development and succession;
- review expense accounts and fringe benefits of executive management;
- administer our stock option and stock incentive programs; and

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- review and recommend to the Board of Directors the compensation of members of the Board of Directors.

*Governance & Nominating Committee*

The Governance and Nominating Committee, which is composed of three independent directors Stephen Glick (Committee Chairman), Joseph Desmond and Richard Kiphart, was formed in 2004 upon the Board of Directors' adoption of a Governance and Nominating Committee Charter. A copy of the Governance and Nominating Committee's charter is available on our website ([www.lime-energy.com](http://www.lime-energy.com)) under the heading Investors. The Board believes that Messrs. Glick, Desmond and Kiphart are independent directors as defined by NASDAQ Rule 5605(a)(2). Prior to the establishment of the Governance and Nominating Committee, the recruitment and selection of candidates for Board of Directors was handled by the Compensation Committee. The Governance and Nominating Committee did not meet during 2011. The Governance and Nominating Committee's responsibilities are to:

- develop and recommend to the Board of Directors policies and processes designed to provide for effective and efficient governance;
- plan Board education activities, including new member orientation;
- evaluate the size and composition of the Board of Directors, develop criteria for membership on the Board of Directors, and evaluate the independence of existing and prospective directors, and make recommendations to the Board concerning such matters;
- seek and evaluate qualified individuals to become directors;
- evaluate the nature, structure and composition of other committees of the Board of Directors and make recommendations to the Board concerning such matters; and
- assess the performance of the Board of Directors.

**Selection of Board Nominees**

Our Governance and Nominating Committee is responsible for identifying and evaluating Board candidates using one or more informal processes deemed appropriate for the circumstances. All of our directors and executive officers play a significant role in bringing potential

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candidates to the attention of the Committee. A determination of whether to pursue discussions with a particular individual will be made after discussion by the Committee and may be preceded by formal or informal discussions involving one or all of the other Board members. Information considered by the Committee may include information provided by the candidate, the chief executive officer and one or more Committee or Board members. The Committee seeks candidates whose qualifications, experience and independence complement those of existing Board members. Board candidates are expected to possess high personal and professional ethics, integrity and values, and relevant business experience and to be committed to representing the long-term interests of all stockholders. They are also expected to have an inquisitive and objective perspective, practical wisdom and good judgment.

Once appropriate candidates have been identified, the Committee will recommend nominations to our Board. Our Governance and Nominating Committee has not adopted a policy or procedure for the consideration of director candidates recommended by stockholders. Our Board does not recall an instance in which a stockholder (other than a stockholder serving as an officer or director) has recommended a director candidate; however, the Governance and Nominations Committee will consider all timely stockholder recommendations. For the 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, nominations may be submitted to the Corporate Secretary, Lime Energy Co., 16810 Kenton Drive, Suite 240, Huntersville, NC

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28078, which will forward them to the Chairman of the Governance and Nominating Committee. Recommendations must be in writing, must specify the candidate's qualifications for serving as a director and must be received by us not later than March 14, 2013, in order for nominees to be considered for election at our 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

**Codes of Conduct and Business Ethics**

We have adopted a code of ethics as part of our compliance program. This code of ethics applies to our chief executive officer and our chief financial officer. In addition, we have a Code of Conduct and Business Ethics that applies to all of our officers, directors and employees. These codes of ethics are available on our website ([www.lime-energy.com](http://www.lime-energy.com)) under the heading Investors. We intend to post amendments to or waivers from the Code of Ethics which are applicable to our directors, principal executive officer and principal financial officer at this location on our website.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

The table below identifies our executive officers who are not identified in the table under Nominees for Director.

| Name               | Age | Position Held with the Company   |
|--------------------|-----|--|
| Jeffrey R. Mistarz | 53  | Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Corporate Secretary |

**Jeffrey R. Mistarz** has been our chief financial officer since January 2000, our treasurer since October 2000, an executive vice president since November 2002, our assistant secretary since February 2003 and our secretary since June 2006. From January 1994 until joining us, Mr. Mistarz served as chief financial officer for Nucon Corporation, a privately held manufacturer of material handling products and systems, where he was responsible for all areas of finance and accounting, managing capital and stockholder relations. Prior to joining Nucon, Mr. Mistarz was with First Chicago Corporation (now JPMorgan Chase & Co.) for 12 years where he held several positions in corporate lending, investment banking and credit strategy.

**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The following tables set forth information regarding the beneficial ownership of our securities as of April 13, 2012 by:

- each person known by us to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of the outstanding shares of our voting securities;

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- each of our directors and named executive officers, and
- all of our directors and executive officers as a group (ten persons).

Each stockholder's beneficial ownership is based on 24,150,651 shares of Lime common stock outstanding as of April 13, 2012. Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC. Except as otherwise noted, the persons or entities named have sole voting and investment power

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with respect to all shares shown as beneficially owned by them, and the address of each person listed in the following table is c/o Lime Energy Co., 16810 Kenton Drive, Suite 240, Huntersville, NC 28078.

**Beneficial Owners of Greater Than 5% of Our Common Stock:**

| Name               | Common Shares Directly Held | Common Shares Issuable Upon Exercise of Warrants (1) | Common Shares Issuable Upon Exercise of Options (1) | Total     | %      |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|-----------|--------|
| Richard P. Kiphart | 9,637,170                   | 75,000   | 43,765  | 9,755,935 | 40.490 |

**Directors and Executive Officers:**

| Name                                    | Common Shares Directly Held | Common Shares Issuable Upon Exercise of Warrants (1) | Common Shares Issuable Upon Exercise of Options (1) | Total     | %      |
|---|-----------------------------|--|---|-----------|--------|
| <b>Directors and Executive Officers</b> |                             |  |   |           |        |
| David R. Asplund                        | 345,468                     |  | 889,019   | 1,234,487 | 4.965  |
| Gregory T. Barnum                       | 29,402                      |  | 39,356  | 68,758    | *      |
| Christopher W. Capps                    | 22,716                      |  | 110,448   | 133,164   | *      |
| Joseph F. Desmond                       | 17,456                      |  | 28,572  | 46,028    | *      |
| Stephen Glick                           | 627,826                     |  | 14,286  | 642,112   | 2.677  |
| Richard P. Kiphart                      | 9,637,170                   | 75,000   | 43,765  | 9,755,935 | 40.490 |
| Jeffrey R. Mizarz                       | 59,121                      |  | 276,555   | 335,676   | 1.384  |
| John O Rourke                           | 211,226                     |  | 83,928  | 295,154   | 1.227  |
| Daniel W. Parke **                      | 543,000                     |  | 575,317   | 1,118,317 | 4.555  |

All directors and executive officers as a group (10 persons)\*\*\*

|  |            |        |           |            |        |
|--|------------|--------|-----------|------------|--------|
|  | 10,950,385 | 75,000 | 1,485,929 | 12,511,314 | 48.994 |
|--|------------|--------|-----------|------------|--------|

\* Denotes beneficial ownership of less than 1%.

\*\* Resigned June 2, 2011, effective May 31, 2011

\*\*\* Excludes Daniel W. Parke

(1) Represents warrants and options to purchase our common stock exercisable within 60 days of April 13, 2012.

**Changes in Control**

We are not aware of any arrangements, including any pledge by any person of our stock, the operation of which may at a subsequent date result in a change of control of the Company.

**Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance**

Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires our directors and officers (as defined in Section 16) and persons who beneficially own greater than 10% of a registered class of

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our equity securities to file reports of ownership and changes in ownership with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The required reports consist of initial statements on Form 3, statements of changes on Form 4 and annual statements on Form 5. Directors, officers and greater than 10% stockholders are required by Securities and Exchange Commission rules to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) reports filed. Based solely on our review of the reports we have received and on written representations from our officers who are reporting persons, we believe that during 2011 all Section 16 filing requirements applicable to our directors, officers and 10% beneficial owners were complied with by these persons.

**TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PERSONS, PROMOTERS AND CONTROL PERSONS**

On July 11, 2008, we entered into an agreement with Mr. Kiphart, whereby Mr. Kiphart agreed to cause the issuance of certain letters of credit in an amount not to exceed \$10 million, to support the issuance of surety bonds required under certain customer contracts. The obligation to continue to provide support for new letters of credit expired when we completed the follow-on public offering of our common stock in September 2009. We have agreed to pay Mr. Kiphart a fee equal to 3-5/8% per annum on the average outstanding balance on letters of credit. In addition, we agreed to indemnify Mr. Kiphart for any claims under the letters of credit. The final letter of credit supported by Mr. Kiphart was terminated on January 31, 2011 at which time his obligation to provide further support ceased.

One of our subsidiary companies, Parke Industries, Incorporated, leases space in a building in Glendora, California that is owned by a company controlled by Dan Parke, our former president and director. Total rent expense for this facility amounted to \$163,845 and \$159,000 for 2011 and 2010, respectively. We believe that the rates charged by Mr. Parke are reasonable in that they are equivalent to rates charged to other unaffiliated third parties in the building.

**EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

**Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

We compensate our executives by using a balanced approach, which combines fixed and performance-based compensation, annual and long-term compensation, and cash and equity compensation. We determine this mix by reviewing the mix offered by other companies of our size and in our industry. We do not have a specific policy for the allocation of compensation between fixed and performance-based compensation, annual and long-term compensation, and cash and equity compensation.

We manage our business with the long-term goal of creating and maximizing shareholder value, and, accordingly, a significant percentage of our executive compensation is at risk and weighted towards company performance, long-term incentives and stock price appreciation. We think this is a key to our long-term success. The following table illustrates the allocation of the principal compensation components for our current named executive officers for 2011. The percentages reflect the amounts of 2011 salary and targeted annual cash incentive compensation and the aggregate grant date fair values of stock options and shares of restricted stock granted in 2011. For 2011, 60.2% of these principal compensation components for our current named executive officers in the aggregate were variable, including 53.2% which was tied to performance of our stock price.





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(1) Includes severance paid to Mr. Parke

*Current Executive Officers*

We currently have three executive officers: David Asplund, our Executive Chairman, John O Rourke our President and Chief Operating Officer, and Jeffrey Mistarz our Chief Financial Officer.

*Overview of Executive Compensation Program*

Prior to 2009, we did not have a formalized program for determining executive compensation. Two of the three current executive officers (Messrs. Asplund and O Rourke) receive the majority of their compensation pursuant to written employment agreements that were negotiated in connection with their becoming our employees. In each of these instances, the Board of Directors approved the employment agreement and the terms were negotiated at the time in light of specific circumstances. Notwithstanding the absence of a formalized compensation program, our executive officers have generally received compensation consisting of three components:

- a cash component, consisting of salary meant to be competitive with salaries such individuals could obtain from other employers;

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- eligibility for annual cash bonuses determined by the Compensation Committee based on our performance and the executive's achievement of individual objectives; and
- stock options intended to reward achievement of long-term goals and align the interests of our executive officers with those of our stockholders.

In certain cases, we have provided automobile allowances or Company paid leased vehicles to executives who are expected to use their cars for Company business. Executive officers participate in group health and disability insurance on the same basis as other full-time employees and certain executives were offered individual life and disability insurance policies as part of their hiring agreements.

Except as noted above with respect to the current employment agreements with Messrs. Asplund, and O'Rourke, the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors makes all compensation decisions for our executive officers. Generally, compensation decisions for executive officers other than our chief

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executive officer have been made by the Compensation Committee pursuant to recommendations made by our chief executive officer.

In 2009 we retained the consulting firm of Towers Perrin (which has since changed its name to Towers Watson) to assist us in formalizing our executive compensation program and to help ensure that our compensation program is consistent with current market practices. After consultation with Towers Perrin, on August 4, 2009, our Compensation Committee recommended to our board, and our board adopted, our 2009 Management Incentive Compensation Plan (the 2009 Plan ). Under the terms of the 2009 Plan, our executive officers are the initial group of participants eligible for cash awards and, in lieu of cash awards, equity-based awards (subject to the availability of shares of common stock and the other terms our 2008 Long-Term Incentive Plan) based upon specified criteria to be determined and approved of by our Compensation Committee, or as otherwise provided in the 2009 Plan.

Performance goals for 2009 Plan participants were set in various goal categories, including, but not necessarily limited to: (a) Company performance objectives, comprising revenue and earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortization and stock-based compensation targets, and (b) individual performance objectives. The relative weight among the performance goal categories vary based on the participant's position within the Company. The weighting will be reviewed annually and may be adjusted by our Compensation Committee.

Each participant is informed at the beginning of, or soon after the beginning of, each fiscal year, of his or her 2009 Plan base salary, which will be the basis for determining the award opportunity for that participant, and which amount will be allocated among the participant's performance goal categories. In addition, the 2009 Plan provides that the Compensation Committee will set three performance levels, Threshold, Target and Maximum levels set as a percentage for each performance goal category. Award objectives for 2011 were set based in part upon the 2011 budget which was approved by the Board prior to the end of 2010.

*Objectives of Compensation Program*

Compensation of our executive officers is intended to reward improved overall financial performance of the Company, and to reward performance achievements and increases in stockholder value over the long term.

- Annual salaries for executive officers have been established with the goal of attracting and retaining qualified individuals for the positions. These salaries have been determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Short-term incentive compensation awards are intended to reward our Executives for the achievement of annual performance criteria and are flexible and change based on the needs of our business. These awards are generally determined pursuant to our 2009 Plan, although the 2009 Plan does not prohibit discretionary bonuses in addition to those under the plan. Short-term compensation has historically taken the form of cash bonuses and stock awards.
- Restricted stock grants and stock options awards are intended to reward achievement leading to increases in our profitability and stockholder value over the longer term. The amounts awarded are determined as prescribed in the 2009 Plan.

To motivate executive officers to achieve the longer-term goal of increasing our profitability and stockholder value, and to reward them for achieving such long-term goals, stock awards and stock options have been included as part of the compensation structure for our executive officers. These awards provide an increased opportunity for equity ownership by our executive officers, thereby further aligning

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their interest with those of our stockholders. These grants are generally made in a manner consistent with the 2009 Plan, though the Compensation Committee has latitude to determine the amount of short-term incentive compensation to be paid in the form of cash versus stock grants. All stock grants have been in the form of restricted stock, which vests ratably over a three-year period dependent on the executive's continued employment by us. A typical stock option grant has been structured to have a ten-year exercise period, to vest over a three period of years, with vesting also depending upon the executive remaining employed by us, and to have an exercise price equal to the market price on the grant date. In certain cases, options have been granted at an exercise price higher than the market price. We have not granted options with an exercise price that is less than the market price on the grant date. As further incentive to achieve certain long-term objectives, during 2010 we granted nine employees, including the named executive officers, options that will only vest if certain specific financial and stock performance objectives are achieved within a five-year period. These options are further described below.

We do not have a formula for allocating between cash and non-cash compensation. The number of shares of restricted stock and stock options awarded to an executive officer has been decided on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration other components of compensation, not pursuant to any specific guidelines or program.

A copy of the 2009 Management Incentive Compensation Plan was filed as an exhibit to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated August 4, 2009 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 7, 2009.

On April 16, 2010, the Compensation Committee approved the grant of options (the Cliff Options) to purchase 720,000 shares of stock to a group of nine senior employees of the Company, including the three named executive officers. These options were granted to provide additional incentive to these senior managers to achieve certain objectives within a set period of time which the Board believes will greatly benefit stockholders. The significant terms of these options are as follows:

- Exercise price of \$4.50 per share;
  
- The options will vest at any time prior to December 31, 2015 if:
  - the closing market price for the our common stock has exceeds \$20 per share on any trading day,
  - we have publicly reported annual revenue for any fiscal year in excess of \$242 million, and
  - the our publicly reported adjusted EBITDA for any fiscal year in excess of \$24 million;
  
- The options will immediately vest on a Change of Control in which more than 50% of the shares of the our common stock are acquired by any individual, entity or group for a price in excess of \$15 per share, excluding, subject to certain exceptions, acquisitions by the Company, acquisitions from the Company and acquisitions by employee benefit plans; and

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- The options will terminate 10 years from the grant date or three months following the termination of the holder's employment with the Company unless such termination is involuntary and not for Due Cause.

Each of the named executive officers received Cliff Options to purchase 100,000 shares of our common stock under these terms.

A copy of the Form of these Cliff Options was filed as an exhibit to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated April 16, 2010 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 22, 2010.

Table of Contents*Clawback Provisions*

The Company does not currently have a policy requiring a fixed course of action with respect to compensation adjustments following later restatements of financial results beyond what is required under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. Under those circumstances, the Compensation Committee would evaluate whether compensation adjustments are appropriate based upon the facts and circumstances surrounding the restatement. Under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank), the Securities and Exchange Commission is required to promulgate new regulations to require companies to adopt a policy to recover certain compensation in the event of a material accounting restatement. The SEC has not yet issued these regulations, but we will adopt a policy after the regulations are finalized and their requirements are known.

*Accounting and Tax Considerations*

Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718 (formerly known as SFAS No. 123(R)), requires a charge to compensation expense for the fair value of equity compensation awards. Grants of options and restricted stock are accounted for under ASC 718. The Compensation Committee considers the accounting implications of significant compensation decisions, particularly in connection with decisions that relate to the Company's long-term incentive awards.

**2011 Summary Compensation Table**

The following table sets forth the compensation earned, awarded or paid for services rendered to us for the year ended December 31, 2011 and the year ended December 31, 2010 by our principal executive officer (PEO), our principal financial officer (PFO), our executive chairman of the board and our former president. These persons are referred to, collectively, as the named executive officers.

| Name and<br>Principal Position  | Year | Salary<br>(\$) | Bonus<br>(\$) | Stock<br>Awards (\$) (4) | Option Awards (\$) (5) | All Other<br>Compensation (\$) (6) | Total (\$) (7) |
|---|------|----------------|---------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>David R. Asplund</b>   | 2011 | 296,160        | 90,000        | 109,500                  | 184,639                | 48,757(6)                          | 729,056        |
| <i>Executive Chairman (1)</i>   | 2010 | 300,000        | 49,500        | 105,000                  | 340,502                | 48,498(7)                          | 843,500        |
| <b>Jeffrey R. Mistarz</b>   | 2011 | 222,117        | 67,500        | 70,875                   | 108,375                | 4,612(8)                           | 473,479        |
| <i>Executive Vice<br/>President &amp; Chief<br/>Financial Officer (PFO)</i> | 2010 | 225,000        | 37,125        | 67,100                   | 278,216                | 4,743(8)                           | 612,184        |
| <b>John O Rourke</b>  | 2011 | 268,226        | 85,500        | 86,250                   | 1,177,075              | 7,763(9)                           | 1,624,814      |
| <i>President &amp; Chief<br/>Executive Officer(PEO)(2)</i>                  | 2010 | 250,000        | 91,250        | 83,100                   | 304,442                | 7,239(10)                          | 736,031        |
| <b>Daniel W. Parke</b>  | 2011 | 114,586        |               | 109,500                  | 184,639                | 416,743(11)                        | 825,468        |
| <i>President(3)</i>   | 2010 | 275,000        | 49,500        | 105,000                  | 340,502                | 10,182(12)                         | 780,191        |



- (1) Mr. Asplund was our Chief Executive Officer until May 20, 2011.
  
- (2) Mr. O Rourke was named President and Chief Executive Officer on May 20, 2011, prior to this he served as Chief Operating Officer.
  
- (3) Mr. Parke resigned on June 2, 2011, effective May 31, 2011.
  
- (4) Represents the value of restricted shares based on the market price of the shares on the date of grant.

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(5) Amounts for 2011 and 2010 represent the aggregate grant date fair value of option awards granted during the periods, calculated using a trinomial lattice option pricing model. The value weighted-average significant assumptions used to determine the grant date fair values are as follows:

| <b>Significant Assumption<br/>(value weighted-average)</b> | <b>2011</b> | <b>2010</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Risk-free rate   | 0.08%       | 0.12%       |
| Dividend yield   | 0%          | 0%          |
| Expected volatility  | 81.9%       | 81.4%       |
| Expected life (years)                                      | 6.0         | 6.9         |
| Turn-over rate   | 4.8%        | 10.0%       |
| Exercise multiple  | 2.2         | 2.2         |

(6) Includes \$38,977 for the cost of life and long-term disability insurance, \$6,600 of auto allowance and the \$3,180 cost of membership to a business club provided to Mr. Asplund.

(7) Includes \$38,718 for the cost of life and long-term disability insurance, \$6,600 of auto allowance and the \$3,180 cost of membership to a business club provided to Mr. Asplund.

(8) Represents the cost of life insurance and long-term disability insurance provided to Mr. Mistarz.

(9) Includes \$7,200 for the cost of a leased vehicle provided to Mr. O Rourke and \$563 cost of group life and disability insurance provided to Mr. O Rourke.

(10) Includes \$6,656 for the cost of a leased vehicle provided to Mr. O Rourke and \$583 cost of group life and disability insurance provided to Mr. O Rourke.

(11) Includes \$394,344 severance payment, \$18,156 of accrued vacation, \$4,000 of auto allowance and \$243 for the cost of group life and long-term disability insurance provided Mr. Parke.

(12) Includes \$9,600 of auto allowance and \$589 for the cost of group life and long-term disability insurance provided Mr. Parke.

**Employment Contracts, Termination of Employment and Change-in-Control Arrangements**

*Messrs. Asplund, Mistarz and O Rourke*

We have employment agreements with each of our current named executive officers: David R. Asplund, Jeffery Mistarz and John O Rourke. These agreements fix each of the officer's minimum base compensation, and the current annual salary for 2012 for each is as follows: Mr. Asplund \$250,000, Mr. Mistarz \$225,000 and Mr. O Rourke \$285,000. Each of these employment agreements terminates on December 31, 2012 and provides for the automatic renewal of each contract for an additional two year period if the Company does not provide the Executive with a notice of non-renewal before July 1st of the year in which the contract is scheduled to expire. In addition to their base salaries, Messrs. Asplund, and O Rourke are also entitled to monthly automobile allowances of \$550 and \$600, respectively.

Under their employment agreements, each of the current named executive officers are entitled to certain benefits if their employment terminates for certain reasons. If he should die during the term of his contract, most, if not all, of his unvested stock options would immediately vest. In addition, all such stock options and any previously vested stock options would be exercisable for a period of one year following the date of death.

If any of the current named executive officers should become permanently disabled such that he could not perform his duties for 180 consecutive days or for 180 days in any period of 12 consecutive months, we would have the right to terminate his employment, then any stock options which were then already vested would be exercisable for a period of between 90 and 180 days following such termination.

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If any of the current named executive officers should terminate his employment during the term of the contract for reasons other than death, disability or uncured default by us under the agreement, then any vested stock options as of the date of termination shall be exercisable for 90 days following the date of termination.

If we should terminate any of the current named executive officers prior to the scheduled expiration of his respective contract, for any reason other than death, disability or Due Cause, as defined in the employment agreement, or if any of the current named executive officers should choose to terminate his employment because we defaulted in our obligations under the agreement and failed to cure such default after notice, then all of his unvested stock options will immediately vest and would be exercisable for a period of three months following the date of termination. Additionally, we will pay the terminated current named executive officer, as severance compensation, (i) six months salary at his then current rate, in installments in accordance with our regular payroll, plus (ii) any bonus earned as of the termination date, in accordance with the terms of such bonus, plus (iii) any accrued unused vacation, which will be paid on the next regular payroll date.

Due Cause is defined as any of (i) a material breach by the respective current named executive officer of his agreement not cured within 15 calendar days following written notice thereof, (ii) commission of a felony, or theft or embezzlement of our property, (iii) actions which result in material injury to our businesses, properties or reputation, (iv) refusal to perform or substantial neglect of the duties assigned to the respective officer not remedied within 15 calendar days following written notice thereof, or (v) any material violation of any statutory or common law duty of loyalty to us.

In addition to the foregoing, upon occurrence of a change of control, the all the stock options granted to the current named executive officers shall immediately vest and become exercisable, except for an option to purchase 25,000 shares granted to Mr. O Rourke as part of his initial hiring agreement. In addition, the Cliff Options will only vest if the change of control occurs at a stock price in excess of \$15 per share. In general, a Change of Control is deemed to have occurred when (i) we are merged or consolidated with another entity that is not then controlled by us and an unrelated entity acquires the ability to elect a majority of our Board of Directors or holds a majority of our common stock, or (ii) a majority of our assets are sold or otherwise transferred to another entity that is not then controlled by or affiliated with us.

Each of the employment agreements of Messrs. Asplund, Mistarz and O Rourke imposes non-competition, non-solicitation and confidentiality obligations, which are not separately compensated. The non-competition obligation covers the employment period and extends for two years after termination, except for Mr. O Rourke s, in which case the non-competition, non-solicitation and confidentiality obligations covers the employment period and extends for six months after termination.

Table of Contents**Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change In Control**

The following table show potential payments to the current named executive officers under existing contracts, agreements, plans or arrangements, whether written or unwritten, for various scenarios involving a change-in-control or termination of employment assuming a December 31, 2011 termination date and, where applicable, using the closing price of our common stock of \$3.18 per share on that date.

| Name                      | Voluntary Termination<br>(1) | Involuntary Termination - Not For Cause<br>(2) | Involuntary Termination - For Cause<br>(3) | Change in Control<br>(4) | Death<br>(5) | Disability<br>(5) |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <b>David R. Asplund</b>   | \$ 7,977                     | \$ 132,977                                     | \$ 7,977                                   | \$ 0                     | \$ 7,977     | \$ 7,977          |
| <b>Jeffrey R. Mistarz</b> | \$ 4,327                     | \$ 116,827                                     | \$ 4,327                                   | \$ 0                     | \$ 4,327     | \$ 4,327          |
| <b>John O Rourke</b>      | \$ 7,449                     | \$ 149,949                                     | \$ 7,449                                   | \$ 0                     | \$ 7,449     | \$ 7,449          |

(1) None of the listed persons are entitled to more than accrued but unpaid salary and vacation upon a voluntary termination of their employment.

(2) Under the terms of their employment contracts, Messrs. Asplund, Mistarz and O Rourke are entitled to any accrued but unpaid salary and vacation as well as six months severance pay for an involuntary termination of their employment without cause.

(3) None of the listed persons are entitled to more than accrued but unpaid salary and vacation upon an involuntary termination for cause.

(4) None of the listed persons would be entitled to any payments upon a change of control unless they were involuntarily terminated without cause, but upon a change of control certain unvested options held by Messrs. Asplund, Mistarz and O Rourke would immediately vest. As of December 31, 2011 the intrinsic value of executives' options were as follows:

|                 | Value* |
|-----------------|--------|
| David Asplund   | \$ 0   |
| Jeffrey Mistarz | 0      |
| John O Rourke   | 0      |

\* Calculated as the difference between the market value on December 31, 2011 of \$3.18 per share and the option strike price

(5) None of the listed persons are entitled to more than accrued but unpaid salary and vacation upon their death or permanent disability, but upon a upon such an event certain unvested options held by Messrs. Asplund and Mistarz would immediately vest.

Table of Contents**Grants of Plan-Based Awards for 2011**

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to options granted during or for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011 to each named executive officer. There are no estimated future payouts under non-equity or equity incentive plan awards.

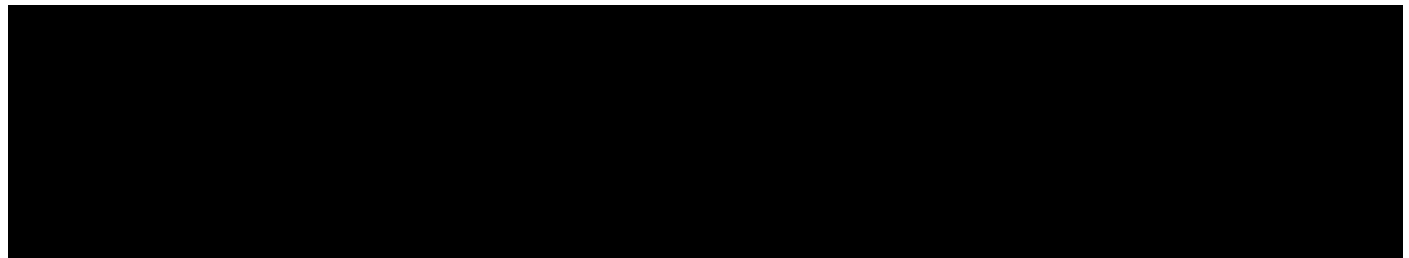
| Name                      | Grant Date               | Committee Action Date    | All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units (#) (1) | All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options (#) (2) | Exercise or Base Price of Option Award (\$/sh) (3) | Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards (\$) (4) |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| <b>Dave R. Asplund</b>    | 01/03/2011               | 12/29/2010               | 27,104   | 82,439   | \$ 4.04  | \$ 294,139  |
| <b>Jeffrey R. Mistarz</b> | 01/03/2011               | 12/29/2010               | 17,543   | 48,388   | \$ 4.04  | \$ 179,249  |
| <b>John O Rourke</b>      | 01/03/2011<br>06/03/2011 | 12/29/2010<br>06/03/2011 | 21,349   | 62,725<br>450,000  | \$ 4.04<br>\$ 4.23                                 | \$ 226,736<br>\$ 1,036,589                                |
| <b>Daniel W. Parke</b>    | 01/03/2011               | 12/29/2010               | 27,104   | 82,439   | \$ 4.04  | \$ 294,139  |

- 
- (1) Represents restricted stock which vests 1/3 on each of December 31, 2011, 2012 and 2013.
- (2) The amounts represent 10 year option grants. In general 1/3 of each option grant vests one year after the grant date, 1/3 after two years, and 1/3 after three years. Any unexercised options expire after ten years. If a grantee dies any unvested options would terminate immediately, any vested options would be exercisable for a period of 12 months from the date of death. Upon a change of control in the Company, all options immediately vest and become exercisable. In most other instances of employment termination, including retirement and disability, all unvested option terminate upon termination of employment and vested options are exercisable for a period of three months following termination of employment.
- (3) The exercise price was not lower than the market price of our common stock on the grant date for any of the options listed.
- (4) The amounts shown represent the market value of stock awards on the date of grant and/or the full grant date value of each equity-based option award shown in the table for each Named Executive Officer computed under Accountings Standard Codification topic 718.

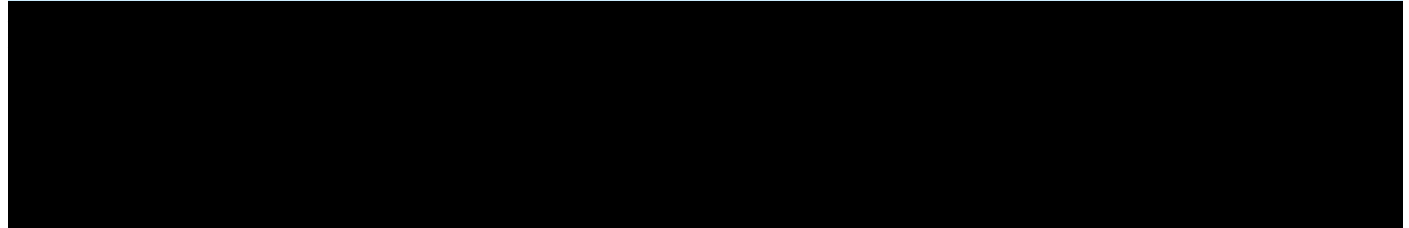
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**Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End 2011**

The following table includes certain information with respect to the value of all unexercised options previously awarded to the named executive officers at December 31, 2011:



|                  |          |         |         |          |          |        |        |
|------------------|----------|---------|---------|----------|----------|--------|--------|
| David R. Asplund | 06/10/02 | 71      |         | \$ 3.66  | 06/10/12 |        |        |
|                  | 06/10/03 | 24      |         | \$ 3.66  | 06/10/13 |        |        |
|                  | 06/10/04 | 24      |         | \$ 3.66  | 06/10/14 |        |        |
|                  | 06/10/05 | 24      |         | \$ 3.66  | 06/10/15 |        |        |
|                  | 01/23/06 | 476     |         | \$ 3.66  | 01/23/16 |        |        |
|                  | 06/12/06 | 952     |         | \$ 3.66  | 06/12/16 |        |        |
|                  | 06/12/06 | 28,572  |         | \$ 6.72  | 01/22/16 |        |        |
|                  | 07/11/06 | 200,000 |         | \$ 4.65  | 07/11/16 |        |        |
|                  | 07/11/06 | 214,286 |         | \$ 7.14  | 07/11/16 |        |        |
|                  | 07/11/06 | 200,000 |         | \$ 10.33 | 07/11/16 |        |        |
|                  | 10/01/07 | 107,142 |         | \$ 11.13 | 10/01/17 |        |        |
|                  | 12/10/08 | 60,000  |         | \$ 3.50  | 12/10/18 |        |        |
|                  | 01/04/10 | 49,968  | 24,983  | \$ 4.42  | 12/31/19 | 7,918  | 25,179 |
|                  | 04/16/10 |         | 100,000 | \$ 4.50  | 04/16/20 | 18,069 | 57,459 |
|                  | 01/03/11 | 27,480  | 54,959  | \$ 4.04  | 12/31/20 |        |        |



|               |          |        |         |         |          |        |        |
|---------------|----------|--------|---------|---------|----------|--------|--------|
| John O'Rourke | 06/11/08 | 25,000 |         | \$ 7.93 | 06/11/18 |        |        |
|               | 01/04/10 | 38,019 | 19,009  | \$ 4.42 | 12/31/19 | 6,267  | 19,929 |
|               | 04/16/10 |        | 100,000 | \$ 4.50 | 04/16/20 | 14,233 | 45,261 |
|               | 01/03/11 | 20,909 | 41,816  | \$ 4.04 | 12/31/20 |        |        |
|               | 06/03/11 |        | 450,000 | \$ 4.23 | 06/03/21 |        |        |

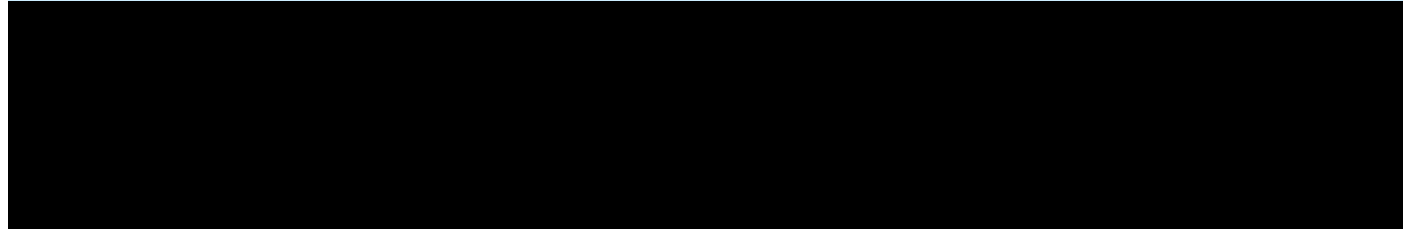






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(1) The vesting dates for the unexercisable options are as follows:

|                  | Option<br>Exercise<br>Price | Quantity | Vesting Date |
|------------------|-----------------------------|----------|--------------|
| Asplund, David   | \$ 4.04                     | 27,480   | 12/31/12     |
|                  | \$ 4.42                     | 24,983   | 12/31/12     |
|                  | \$ 4.04                     | 27,479   | 12/31/13     |
|                  | \$ 4.50                     | 100,000  | 04/16/15(I)  |
| Mistarz, Jeffrey | \$ 4.04                     | 16,129   | 12/31/12     |
|                  | \$ 4.42                     | 14,664   | 12/31/12     |
|                  | \$ 4.04                     | 16,129   | 12/31/13     |
|                  | \$ 4.50                     | 100,000  | 04/16/15(I)  |
| O Rourke, John   | \$ 4.23                     | 150,000  | 06/03/12     |
|                  | \$ 4.04                     | 20,908   | 12/31/12     |
|                  | \$ 4.42                     | 19,009   | 12/31/12     |
|                  | \$ 4.23                     | 150,000  | 06/03/13     |
|                  | \$ 4.04                     | 20,908   | 12/31/13     |
|                  | \$ 4.23                     | 150,000  | 06/03/14     |
|                  | \$ 4.50                     | 100,000  | 04/16/15(I)  |

(1) These options will vest if prior to December 31, 2015 the following conditions have been met:

- the closing market price for the our common stock has exceeds \$20 per share on any trading day,
- we have publicly reported annual revenue for any fiscal year in excess of \$242 million, and
- the our publicly reported adjusted EBITDA for any fiscal year in excess of \$24 million.

Additionally, these options will immediately vest on a Change of Control in which more than 50% of the shares of the our common stock are acquired by any individual, entity or group for a price in excess of \$15 per share, excluding, subject to certain exceptions, acquisitions by the Company, acquisitions from the Company and acquisitions by employee benefit plans.

### Stock Options and Incentive Compensation

On June 4, 2008, our stockholders approved the adoption of the 2008 Stock Incentive Plan (the 2008 Plan ), which replaced the 2001 Stock Incentive Plan, as amended. The 2008 Plan provided that up to 280,000 shares of our common stock could be delivered under the Plan to certain of our employees and to consultants and directors who are not employees. In addition, the 2008 Plan originally provided for an additional number of shares of our common stock to be reserved for issuance under the plan on January 1st of each succeeding year, beginning January 1, 2010, in an amount equal to 100,000 shares. On November 26, 2008, our Compensation Committee approved amendments the 2008 Plan to i) increase the maximum number of shares of Common Stock authorized for issuance under the 2008 Plan by 350,000 shares, from 280,000 shares to 630,000 shares, and (ii) raise the automatic increases in the number of shares available for awards by 150,000 shares, from 100,000 to

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250,000, each year beginning in 2010. The holders of a majority of our outstanding capital stock approved the Plan Amendment pursuant to a consent dated November 26, 2008. On March 25, 2010, the Compensation Committee approved a second amendment to the 2008 Plan to increase the shares available under the plan by an additional 1,720,000 shares, from 1,130,000 shares to 2,850,000 shares. The second amendment was approved by our stockholders on June 3, 2010.

The awards to be granted under the Plan may be incentive stock options eligible for favored treatment under Section 422 of the Internal Revenue code of 1986, as amended from time to time, or non-qualified options that are not eligible for such treatment, or stock of the Company, which may be subject to contingencies or restrictions, as well as grants of stock appreciation rights or grants of shares of common stock. Approximately 274 employees and officers of the Company and our subsidiaries are currently eligible to participate in the Plan.

As of December 31, 2011, there were 2,581,579 shares of common stock reserved under the Plan for outstanding options and shares of restricted stock. We granted 108,025 shares of restricted stock and

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options to purchase 915,536 shares under the Plan during 2011, and options to purchase 2,383,002 shares were outstanding under the Plan as of December 31, 2011.

The following information reflects certain information about our equity compensation plans as of December 31, 2011:

| Plan Category  | Equity Compensation Plan Information   |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  | (a)<br>Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights | (b)<br>Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights | (c)<br>Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) |
| Equity compensation plans approved by security holders (1)     | 2,393,002  | \$ 4.44  | 463,014  |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders (2) | 1,757,082  | \$ 7.71  |  |
| Total  | 4,150,084  | \$ 5.83  | 463,014  |

(1) Includes warrants granted to a consultant to purchase 10,000 shares at an average price of \$3.85 per share.

(2) Prior to June 2010, we granted stock options to our non-employee directors pursuant to a Directors Stock Option Plan (See Compensation of Directors ), which grants are included in this category. We grant stock options to our non-employee directors pursuant to a Directors Stock Option Plan (See Compensation of Directors ), which grants are included in this category.

**Option Exercises and Stock Vested During 2011**

The following table shows all stock options exercised and the value realized upon exercise, and all stock awards vested and the value realized upon vesting, by our Named Executive Officers during fiscal 2011:

|                    | Option Awards                             |                                 | Stock Awards                             |                                    |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
|                    | Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#) | Value Realized on Exercise (\$) | Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#) | Value Realized on Vesting (\$) (1) |
| David R. Asplund   |   |                                 | 16,954                                   | 53,914                             |
| Jeffrey R. Mistarz |   |                                 | 10,908                                   | 34,687                             |

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|                 |           |         |
|-----------------|-----------|---------|
| John O. Rourke  | 13,383    | 42,558  |
| Daniel W. Parke | 42,836(2) | 186,337 |

- 
- (1) Calculated using the market value of the shares on the date of vesting
- (2) All of Mr. Parke's shares vested on his termination

**Option Re-Pricing**

We have not engaged in any option re-pricings or other modifications to any of our outstanding equity awards during fiscal year 2011.

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**PROPOSAL 2**

**RATIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED**

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

BDO USA, LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, has been our independent auditor for many years, and is considered by management to be well qualified. The Board of Directors, at the recommendation of the Audit Committee, has recommended the appointment of BDO USA, LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2012, and our stockholders are asked to approve the appointment of BDO USA, LLP as our auditors for the year ending December 31, 2012.

You may cast your vote in favor of or against this proposal, or you may elect to abstain from voting your shares.

A representative of BDO USA, LLP is expected to be present telephonically at the Annual Meeting and will be given an opportunity to make a statement if he or she desires. The representative also will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

If the stockholders fail to ratify the selection, the Audit Committee will reconsider whether or not to retain that firm. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee in its discretion may direct the appointment of a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if the Audit Committee determines that such a change would be in the best interests of the Company and our stockholders.

**The Board of Directors recommends that the stockholders vote**

**FOR**

**The ratification of the appointment of BDO USA, LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2012.**

Table of Contents**AUDIT COMMITTEE DISCLOSURE****General**

The Audit Committee of the Board is primarily responsible for the oversight of the quality and integrity of our accounting and reporting practices and controls, and our financial statements and reports; compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; the independent auditors qualifications and independence; and the performance of our internal audit function and independent auditors. A complete description of the Committee's function may be found in its charter, which may be accessed through our Investor Relations page at [www.lime-energy.com](http://www.lime-energy.com).

**Independent Auditors Fees**

The Audit Committee, with the approval of the stockholders, engaged BDO USA, LLP to perform an annual audit of our financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011. The following table summarizes the total fees paid to BDO, our principal accountant, for the audit of our annual financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, and fees billed for other professional services provided during these periods:

| Type of Fee            | 2011              | 2010              |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Audit fees (1)         | \$ 262,830        | \$ 266,534        |
| Audit-related fees (2) | 5,000             |                   |
| Tax fees (3)           | 67,520            | 67,715            |
| All other fees (4)     |                   |                   |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>\$ 335,350</b> | <b>\$ 344,249</b> |

(1) Audit fees consist of fees for professional services rendered for the audit of our consolidated financial statements and review of our consolidated financial statements included in our quarterly reports and services normally provided by the independent auditor in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements.

(2) Audit-related fees are fees billed for assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of our consolidated financial statements, but not included in footnote (1) above. There were no audit-related fees for 2010. The 2011 fees were related to review of a registration statement filed during the year.

(3) Tax services fees consist of professional fees billed for products and services rendered by BDO for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning. All of these fees were pre-approved by our Audit Committee.

(4) All other fees consist of fees billed by BDO for services other than those listed in categories 1 thru 3 above. There were no other fees for 2011 or 2010.



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**Procedures for Audit Committee Pre-Approval of Audit and Permissible Non-Audit Services of Independent Auditor**

Our Audit Committee charter requires the Audit Committee to pre-approve all audit and non-audit services provided by BDO. Each proposed engagement not specifically identified by the Securities and Exchange Commission as impairing independence is evaluated for independence implications prior to entering into a contract with the independent auditor for such services. Our Audit Committee considered whether the use of BDO's services other than for the annual audit and quarterly reviews in any way impairs their independence and has concluded that it does not. In both 2011 and 2010, these services were limited to tax fees related to tax compliance, advice and planning. No services were performed by BDO prior to receiving approval from the Audit Committee.

We have been advised by BDO that substantially all of the work done in conjunction with its 2011 audit of our financial statements for the most recently completed year was performed by permanent, full-time employees and partners of BDO. We have received confirmation and a letter from BDO required by Independence Standards Board No. 1, and discussed with BDO its independence.

**Report of the Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors, which is reassessed periodically for adequacy by the Audit Committee. The directors who serve on the Audit Committee have no financial or personal ties to us (other than director compensation and equity ownership as described in this proxy statement) and are all independent for purposes of the Securities and Exchange Commission's regulations and the NASDAQ listing standards. The Board of Directors has determined that none of the Audit Committee members has a relationship with us that may interfere with the director's independence from the Company and our management.

The Audit Committee oversees our financial reporting process on behalf of the Board of Directors. Management has the primary responsibility for the consolidated financial statements and their reporting process, including the systems of internal controls. In fulfilling their oversight responsibilities, the Committee has reviewed and discussed with the independent auditors matters such as the quality (in addition to acceptability), clarity, consistency, and completeness of our financial reporting, as required by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended as adopted by the PCAOB in Rule 3200T, Communication with Audit Committees, as amended by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 90, Audit Committee Communications.

Management is responsible for our internal controls and the financial reporting process. BDO, our independent auditor, is responsible for performing an independent audit of the Company's consolidated financial statements in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. The Audit Committee's responsibility is to monitor and oversee these processes.

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements contained in the 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K and the Company's internal controls over financial reporting with the Company's management and its independent registered certified public accounting firm. The Audit Committee received from BDO the written disclosures and the letter required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding BDO's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and has discussed with BDO the issue of its independence from the Company.



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Based on the Audit Committee's review of the audited financial statements and its discussions with management and BDO noted above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited consolidated financial statements be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011. The Committee recommended to the Board of Directors the selection of BDO as the Company's independent auditor for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2012, and that the Board submit this appointment to the Company's stockholders for approval at the Annual Meeting.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Gregory T. Barnum, *Chair*

Christopher W. Capps

Joseph F. Desmond

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**MISCELLANEOUS AND OTHER MATTERS**

**Stockholder Communications with the Board of Directors**

Our Annual Meeting provides an opportunity each year for stockholders to ask questions of or otherwise communicate directly with directors on matters relevant to us. In addition, stockholders may, at any time, communicate with any of our directors by sending a written communication to such director c/o our Corporate Secretary at Lime Energy Co., 16810 Kenton Drive, Suite 240, Huntersville, NC 28078.

All communications by stockholders or other interested parties addressed to the Board will be sent directly to Board members. While our Corporate Secretary may review, sort, and summarize these communications, all direct communications will be presented to the non-management directors unless there is instruction from them to filter such communications (and in such event, any communication that has been filtered out will be made available to any non-management director who wishes to review it).

**Proposals of Stockholders for Next Year's Meeting**

Stockholders may present proper proposals for inclusion in the proxy statement for our next annual meeting of stockholders by submitting their proposals to us in a timely manner. In order to be included in the proxy statement for our next annual meeting, stockholder proposals must be received by us no later than December 29, 2012, and must otherwise comply with the requirements of the applicable SEC rules. Notice of intention to present proposals at next year's annual meeting must be addressed to Corporate Secretary, Lime Energy Co., 16810 Kenton Drive, Suite 240, Huntersville, NC 28078. Any Stockholder proposal to be considered at our 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, but not included in the proxy materials, must be submitted to our Corporate Secretary by March 14, 2013, or the persons appointed as proxies may exercise their discretionary voting authority with respect to that proposal. The persons appointed as proxies may also exercise their discretionary voting authority with respect to stockholder proposals submitted prior to March 14, 2013, unless the proponent otherwise complies with the requirements of the Commission's Rule 14a-4 or Rule 14a-8.

**Stockholder List**

For at least ten days prior to the meeting, a list of stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting, arranged in alphabetical order, showing the address of and number of shares registered in the name of each stockholder, will be open for examination by any stockholder, for any purpose germane to the Annual Meeting, during ordinary business hours at our principal executive offices by contacting the Corporate Secretary. The list will also be available for examination at the Annual Meeting.

**Other Business**

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The Board of Directors is not aware of any other matters to be presented at the Annual Meeting other than those mentioned in this proxy statement and our enclosed Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders. If, however, any other matters properly come before the Annual Meeting, the persons named in the accompanying proxy will vote in accordance with their best judgment.

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**Incorporation by Reference**

The Report of the Audit Committee does not constitute soliciting material and should not be deemed filed or incorporated by reference into any other filing by us under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except to the extent that we specifically incorporate such information by reference.

**Financial Statements and Additional Information**

We have enclosed a copy of our Annual Report to Stockholders for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, which includes our Annual Report on Form 10-K for such period that we filed with the SEC. Upon the written request of any person who is a stockholder as of the record date, we will provide copies of the exhibits to the Form 10-K upon payment of a reasonable fee which shall not exceed our reasonable expenses in providing the exhibits. You should direct requests for these materials to Lime Energy Co., 16810 Kenton Drive, Suite 240, Huntersville, NC 28078, Attention: Chief Financial Officer.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,  
David R. Asplund  
*Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors*

Elk Grove Village, Illinois

April 27, 2012

**YOU ARE REQUESTED TO COMPLETE,  
DATE, SIGN AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY PROMPTLY.**

**LIME ENERGY CO.**

**PLEASE MARK VOTE IN BOX IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER USING DARK INK ONLY.**

**The Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote FOR all nominees listed in Proposal 1 and FOR Proposal 2.**

1. Election of Directors: (Instruction: TO WITHHOLD AUTHORITY to vote for any individual nominee, strike a line through the nominee's name below)

|                      |                    |                                    |                                     |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| David R. Asplund     | Stephen Glick      | <input type="radio"/> Vote FOR all | <input type="radio"/> Vote WITHHELD |
| Gregory T. Barnum    | Richard P. Kiphart | nominees (except as                | from all nominees                   |
| Christopher W. Capps | John O. Rourke     | marked)                            |                                     |
| Joseph F. Desmond    |                    |                                    |                                     |

2. To appoint BDO USA, LLP as independent auditors for fiscal 2012

For                       Against                       Abstain

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2012

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (if held jointly) \_\_\_\_\_

Please date this Proxy and sign it exactly as your name(s) appears hereon. When shares are held by joint tenants, both should sign. When signing as an attorney, executor, administrator, trustee, guardian or other fiduciary, please indicate your capacity. If you sign for a corporation, please print full corporate name and indicate capacity of duly authorized officer executing on behalf of the corporation. If you sign for a partnership, please print full partnership name and indicate capacity of duly authorized person executing on behalf of the partnership.

**PLEASE COMPLETE, SIGN EXACTLY AS NAME APPEARS ABOVE, DATE AND**

**RETURN THIS PROXY CARD PROMPTLY USING THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.**

**LIME ENERGY CO.**

**16810 Kenton Drive, Suite 240**

**Huntersville, NC 28078**

**PROXY FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

**TO BE HELD ON JUNE 12, 2012**

**THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The undersigned stockholder(s) hereby revokes all prior proxies and appoints Jeffrey R. Mistarz and Anne Berg and each of them, with full power of substitution, as attorneys and proxies for, and in the name and place of, the undersigned, and hereby authorizes each of them to represent and to vote all of the shares of common stock which the undersigned is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Lime Energy Co. to be held at the Huntersville Town Hall, 101 Huntersville Concord Road, Huntersville, NC 28078 at 9:00 a.m. local time, on Tuesday, June 12, 2012, and at any adjournments thereof, upon the matters set forth in the Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Proxy Statement, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.

**THIS PROXY, WHEN PROPERLY EXECUTED AND RETURNED IN A TIMELY MANNER, WILL BE VOTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND AT ANY ADJOURNMENTS THEREOF IN THE MANNER DIRECTED HEREIN BY THE UNDERSIGNED STOCKHOLDER(S). IF NO CONTRARY INDICATION IS MADE, THE PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR ALL NOMINEES LISTED IN PROPOSAL 1 AND FOR PROPOSAL 2 AND 3 AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JUDGMENT OF THE PERSONS NAMED AS PROXIES HEREIN ON ANY OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING.**

**PLEASE COMPLETE, SIGN EXACTLY AS NAME APPEARS ABOVE, DATE AND**

**RETURN THIS PROXY CARD PROMPTLY USING THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.**