

LIME ENERGY CO.
Form SC TO-C
December 31, 2008

Table of Contents

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

**SCHEDULE TO
(Rule 13e-4)
Tender Offer Statement Under Section 14(d)(1) or 13(e)(1)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

LIME ENERGY CO.
(Name of Subject Company (Issuer) and Filing Person (Offeror))
Options to Purchase Common Stock, \$0.0001 Par Value Per Share
(Title of Class of Securities)

53261U 205
(CUSIP Number of Class of Securities)
(Underlying Common Stock)

Jeffrey R. Mistarz
Chief Financial Officer
Lime Energy Co.
1280 Landmeier Road
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-2410
Telephone: (847) 437-1666
(Name, Address and Telephone Number of Person Authorized
to Receive Notices and Communications on Behalf of Filing Persons)
Copy to:

J. Todd Arkebauer
Reed Smith LLP
10 S. Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 207-6453

David Mittelman
Reed Smith LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94111
(415) 659-5943

CALCULATION OF FILING FEE

Transaction Valuation*
Not Applicable

Amount of Filing Fee**
Not Applicable

* No filing fee is required because this filing contains only preliminary communications made before the commencement of a tender offer.

o Check the box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing with which the offsetting fee was previously paid. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

Amount Previously Paid: Not applicable.

Filing Party: Not applicable.

Form or Registration No.: Not applicable.

Date Filed: Not applicable.

☐ Check the box if the filing relates solely to preliminary communications made before the commencement of a tender offer.

Check the appropriate boxes below to designate any transactions to which the statement relates:

Third-party tender offer subject to Rule 14d-1.

Issuer tender offer subject to Rule 13e-4.

Going-private transaction subject to Rule 13e-3.

Amendment to Schedule 13D under Rule 13d-2.

Check the following box if the filing is a final amendment reporting the results of the tender offer:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM 12. EXHIBITS
EXHIBIT INDEX

Table of Contents

EXPLANTORY NOTE

Lime Energy Co. filed a Preliminary Information Statement on November 28, 2008 and a Definitive Information Statement on December 31, 2008 (the Information Statement) with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), relating to certain actions taken by written consent of the holders of a majority of shares of Lime s outstanding capital stock. Among the actions reflected in the Information Statement is Item 5 Approval Of The Exchange Offer to permit eligible employees to voluntarily exchange eligible options to purchase shares of Lime s common stock outstanding under Lime s existing equity incentive plans for replacement options to be granted under the Lime s 2008 Long-Term Incentive as amended. The Information Statement does not constitute an offer to holders of our outstanding stock options to exchange options. The stock option exchange offer will only be commenced, if at all, following such time as twenty days elapse from dissemination of the definitive Information Statement.

The stock option exchange offer that is referred to in the Information Statement has not yet commenced. Upon the commencement of the stock option exchange offer, Lime will file with the SEC a completed Schedule TO and related exhibits and documents, including the offer to exchange. All of Lime s eligible employees holding eligible options are strongly encouraged to read the Schedule TO and related exhibits and documents, including the offer to exchange, when available because these materials will contain important information about the stock option exchange offer. The Schedule TO and related exhibits and documents will be available free of charge (i) at the SEC s website at <http://www.sec.gov>, (ii) by directing a written request to: Lime Energy Co., Attn: Maria Medrano, 1280 Landmeier Road, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-2410; (iii) by directing an email request to Maria Medrano at mmedrano@lime-energy.com; or (iv) by contacting Maria Medrano at (847) 437-1666.

ITEM 12. EXHIBITS.

Exhibit

Number	Description
99.(a)(1)	Lime s Preliminary Information Statement on Schedule 14C filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 28, 2008 and incorporated herein by reference.
99.(a)(2)	Lime s Definitive Information Statement on Schedule 14C filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 31, 2008 and incorporated herein by reference.

Table of Contents

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Exhibit

Number

Description

- | | |
|-----------|--|
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| 99.(a)(2) | Lime Energy's Definitive Information Statement on Schedule 14C filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 31, 2008 and incorporated herein by reference. |