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February 24, 2014

## VIA EDGAR

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Division of Corporation Finance 100 F Street, NE Washington, DC 20549 Attention: Terence O'Brien, Accounting Branch Chief

# Re: Ameresco,

#### Inc. June 30, 2013 Form 10-Q filed August 9, 2013 December 31, 2012 Form 10-K filed March 18, 2013 File No. 1-34811

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This letter is in response to the letter dated January 24, 2014 (the "Comment Letter") from Terence O'Brien, Accounting Branch Chief, on behalf of the Staff (the "Staff") of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), to Andrew Spence, the Chief Financial Officer of Ameresco, Inc. ("we," the "Company" or "Ameresco"). For convenient reference, we have set forth below in italics the Staff's comments set forth in the Comment Letter and have keyed the Company's responses to the numbering of the comments and the heading used in the Comment Letter.

## June 30, 2013 Statements of Cash Flows, page 9

1. The Federal ESPC financing is comprised of agreements to sell the ESPC receivables related to certain energy savings performance contracts to third-party financial institutions. Ameresco uses the advances from the financial institutions under these agreements to finance the projects. Until recourse to Ameresco for the ESPC receivables transferred to the financial institution ceases upon final acceptance of the work by the government customer, Ameresco is the primary obligor for financing received. The transfers of receivables under these agreements do not qualify for sales accounting under ASC 860 until final customer acceptance of the work, so the advances from the financial institutions cannot be classified as operating cash flows (that is, ASC 230-10-45-16(a) is not applicable). Therefore, please classify all cash draws that you receive under these ESPC financing debt agreements as financing cash inflows. See ASC 230-10-45-14b. Also, the transfer of cash advances from the financial institutions to disclosing the non-cash transfer of the ESPC receivables in satisfaction of the ESPC liabilities, please revise the presentation of cash flows under these arrangements for each year presented in your 2013 Form 10-K. Please note the prior years' columns should be labeled in a manner that clearly communicates to readers that said amounts have been revised. Further, please include a footnote that discloses the accounting changes and quantifies the impact on the previously reported subtotals. Similar disclosures should also be provided for the comparative 2013 periods included in your 2014 Forms 10-Q.

- **Response:** The Company will classify in future filings all cash advances that we receive under ESPC financing agreements prior to final customer acceptance of the work as financing cash inflows. Also, the Company will classify in future filings the transfer of cash advances from the financial institutions into restricted cash accounts and the use of that cash to pay ESPC project costs as operating cash flows. The Company will disclose in our 2013 Form 10-K the non-cash transfer of the ESPC receivables in satisfaction of the ESPC liabilities, and will revise the presentation of cash flows under these arrangements for each year presented. We will also label the prior years' columns in our 2013 Form 10-K in a manner that clearly communicates to readers that said amounts have been revised. The Company will include in our 2013 Form 10-K, and in our 2014 Forms 10-Q, a footnote that discloses the accounting changes and quantifies the impact on previously reported subtotals.
- 2. In your revised future Statements of Cash Flows, please carefully consider the appropriate classification of activity in the other restricted cash accounts included on the supplementally provided restricted cash roll-forward. Please supplementally summarize for us the amounts of any revisions you expect to make in the classification and presentation of changes in these other restricted cash accounts.
- **Response:** The Company will carefully consider in future filings the appropriate classification of activity in the other restricted cash accounts included on the restricted cash roll-forward supplementally provided with our response letter dated November 26, 2013. Schedule I attached hereto summarizes the amounts of revisions we have made in the classification and presentation of changes in these other restricted cash accounts, inclusive of the classification changes made to the presentation of ESPC financing agreements discussed in response to the Staff's comment 1 above.
- 3. Please expand your liquidity disclosures in MD&A to inform readers that because of the manner in which the ESPC contracts are structured, your reported operating cash flows are materially impacted by the fact that they only reflect the ESPC contract expenditure outflows and do not reflect any inflows from the corresponding contract revenues.
- **Response:** The Company will expand our liquidity disclosures in MD&A in future filings to inform readers that because of the manner in which the ESPC contracts are structured, our reported operating cash flows are materially impacted by the fact that they only reflect the ESPC contract expenditure outflows and do not reflect any inflows from the corresponding contract revenues.

As you requested, the Company acknowledges that:

- the Company is responsible for the adequacy and accuracy of the disclosure in the filings discussed in the Comment Letter (the "filings");
- staff comments or changes to disclosure in response to staff comments do not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the filings; and
- the Company may not assert staff comments as a defense in any proceeding initiated by the Commission or any person under the federal securities laws of the United States.

If you have any questions or request additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (508) 661-2212.

Sincerely,

/s/ Andrew B. Spence Andrew B. Spence Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

# Schedule I

June 30, December 31, Dece	ar Ended ember 31,
	,
2013 2012	
	2011
Operating:	
Restricted cash draws, as reported \$ 18,004,938 \$ 34,229,875 \$ 1	138,485,363
Restricted cash, as revised \$ (1,443,104) \$ (11,247,381) \$	(428,052)
FX change on cash flows, as revised \$ (678,460) \$ 158,281 \$	_
Financing:	
Restricted cash, as reported \$ (5,198,277) \$ (17,799,578) \$	(7,823,912)
Restricted cash, as revised \$ 1,562,183 \$ (2,739,171) \$	(2,746,857)
FX change on cash flows, as revised \$ \$ 55,612 \$	60,144
Proceeds from Federal ESPC projects \$ 13,366,042 \$ 30,202,956 \$ 1	133,776,216

		BALANCE SHEET ROLLFORWARD								
		June 30,		Non-cash	Proceeds from		Financing	Operating	December 31,	
		2013		Disclosure	Federal ESPC		Activities	Activities	2012	
Debt Service Reserve Accounts	\$	8,895,116	\$	— \$	—	\$	2,516,245 \$	— \$	6,378,871	
Operations and Maintenance Reserve Accounts		5,113,938						654,752	4,459,186	
Other Restricted Cash Accounts		1,154,661						593,960	4,439,180	
Restricted Cash on Letters of Credit		10,393,891		_	_		_	194,392	10,199,499	
Restricted Cash on Escrow on ESPC		10,393,891						194,392	10,199,499	
Construction		682,223		_	_		(4,078,428)	_	4,760,651	
Total Restricted Cash	\$	26,239,829				\$	(1,562,183) \$	1,443,104 \$	26,358,908	
Federal ESPC Receivables	\$	60,900,144	\$	(44,739,309) \$	_	\$	— \$	13,784,645 \$	91,854,808	
Federal ESPC Liabilities	\$	61,469,894	\$	(44,739,309) \$	13,366,042	\$	— \$	\$	92,843,161	
		December 31,		Non-cash	Proceeds from		Financing	Operating	December 31,	
		2012		Disclosure	Federal ESPC		Activities	Activities	2011	
Debt Service Reserve Accounts	\$	6,378,871	\$	— \$	—	\$	2,555,475 \$	— \$	3,823,396	
Operations and Maintenance Reserve		4 450 100						550 400	2 000 (0)	
Accounts		4,459,186		_	_		_	550,490	3,908,696	
Other Restricted Cash Accounts		560,701		—	—		—	497,392	63,309	
Restricted Cash on Letters of Credit		10,199,499		_	_		—	10,199,499	_	
Restricted Cash in Escrow on ESPC Construction		4,760,651		_	_		183,696	_	4,576,955	
Total Restricted Cash	\$	26,358,908				\$	2,739,171 \$	11,247,381 \$	12,372,356	
Federal ESPC Receivables	\$	91,854,808	\$	(47,007,891) \$	_	\$	— \$	28,650,513 \$	110,212,186	
Federal ESPC Liabilities	\$	92,843,161	\$	(47,007,891) \$	30,202,956	\$	— \$	— \$	109,648,096	
		December 31,		Non-cash	Proceeds from		Financing	Operating	December 31,	
		2011		Disclosure	Federal ESPC		Activities	Activities	2010	
Debt Service Reserve Accounts	\$	3,823,396	\$	— \$	_	\$	(116,046) \$	— \$	3,939,442	
Operations and Maintenance Reserve										
Accounts		3,908,696		—	—		—	443,297	3,465,399	
Other Restricted Cash Accounts		63,309		—	—		—	(15,245)	78,554	
Restricted Cash on Letters of Credit				—	—		—		—	
Restricted Cash in Escrow on ESPC										
Construction	_	4,576,955		—	—		2,862,903		1,714,052	
Total Restricted Cash	\$	12,372,356				\$	2,746,857 \$	428,052 \$	9,197,447	
Federal ESPC Receivables	\$	110,212,186	\$	(183,120,465) \$	—	\$	— \$	99,781,156 \$	193,551,495	
Federal ESPC Liabilities	\$	109,648,096	\$	(183,120,465) \$	133,776,216	\$	— \$	— \$	158,992,345	