

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549**

**FORM S-8
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

SM Energy Company

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

41-0518430
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

**1775 Sherman Street, Suite 1200
Denver, Colorado 80203**
(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)

SM Energy Company Employee Stock Purchase Plan
(Full title of the plan)

David W. Copeland
Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
SM Energy Company
1775 Sherman Street, Suite 1200
Denver, Colorado 80203
(303) 861-8140

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, smaller reporting company or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/> (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Emerging growth company	<input type="checkbox"/>

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act.

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered (1)(2)	Proposed maximum offering price per share(3)	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price(3)	Amount of registration fee
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value ("Common Stock")	1,268,428	\$ 15.73	\$ 19,952,372.44	\$ 2,312.48

- Pursuant to Rule 416 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), this registration statement shall be deemed to cover an indeterminate number of additional shares of Common Stock of the registrant as may be offered or issued or become issuable to prevent dilution as a result of any stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions which result in an increase in the number of the registrant's shares of outstanding Common Stock.
- The securities registered hereby represent an addition to the 500,000 shares of Common Stock issuable under the SM Energy Company Employee Stock Purchase Plan, the offer and sale of which were previously registered pursuant to the Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed on July 1, 1998 (File No. 333-58273).
- Estimated solely for the purpose of determining the registration fee in accordance with Rule 457(c) and Rule 457(h) under the Securities Act based on the average of the high and low sales prices of the registrant's Common Stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on August 3, 2017.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This registration statement is filed by SM Energy Company, a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), on Form S-8 pursuant to General Instruction E for the purpose of registering an additional 1,268,428 shares of the Company's Common Stock for issuance under the SM Energy Company Employee Stock Purchase Plan, as amended and restated effective on April 6, 2017 (the "Plan"). The Plan is described in the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") on April 13, 2017, and was approved by stockholders at the Company's 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders on May 23, 2017.

On July 1, 1998, the Company filed a registration statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-58273) to register 500,000 shares of Common Stock issuable under the Plan, which at that time was named the St. Mary Land & Exploration Company Employee Stock Purchase Plan. As part of amendments thereto on July 30, 2010, the Plan was renamed the SM Energy Company Employee Stock Purchase Plan, to reflect the change in the name of the Company from St. Mary Land & Exploration Company to SM Energy Company. Pursuant to General Instruction E to Form S-8, this registration statement incorporates by reference the contents of that earlier registration statement to the extent not modified, amended or superseded by this registration statement.

PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

The documents containing the information specified in Part I will be sent or given to participants in the Plan as specified by Rule 428(b)(1) under the Securities Act. In accordance with the instructions to Part I of Form S-8, such documents will not be filed with the Commission either as part of this registration statement or as prospectuses or prospectus supplements pursuant to Rule 424 under the Securities Act. These documents and the documents incorporated by reference pursuant to Item 3 of Part II of this registration statement, taken together, constitute the prospectus as required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The following documents and all other documents subsequently filed with the Commission by the Company pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment that indicates that all shares of Common Stock offered hereby have been sold or that deregisters all such shares of Common Stock then remaining unsold, are hereby incorporated by reference to be a part of this registration statement from the date of filing of such documents:

- (a) The Company's annual report on Form 10-K for its fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, filed with the Commission on February 23, 2017;
- (b) The Company's quarterly reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2017 and June 30, 2017, filed with the Commission on May 4, 2017 and August 4, 2017, respectively;
- (c) The Company's current reports on Form 8-K and amendments thereto filed with the Commission on January 6, 2017, January 9, 2017, March 6, 2017, March 14, 2017, April 3, 2017, May 19, 2017 and May 25, 2017 (excluding any information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 contained in any such reports);
- (d) All other reports filed pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act since the end of the fiscal year covered by the annual report referred to in (a) above (excluding any information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 contained in any Current Report on Form 8-K); and

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(e) The description of the Company's Common Stock contained in the Company's registration statement on Form 8-A, registration statement (File No. 001-31539), filed with the Commission on November 12, 2002 under Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act, as amended by that Form 8-A/A (File No. 001-31539) filed with the Commission on August 8, 2016, and any amendment or report filed with the Commission for the purposes of updating such description.

In addition, any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference shall be deemed to be modified or superseded to the extent that a statement contained in any other subsequently filed document that also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such prior statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed to constitute a part of this registration statement, except as so modified or superseded.

Item 4. Description of Securities.

Not applicable.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

Not applicable.

Item 6. Indemnification of Officers and Directors.

Delaware General Corporation Law

The Company is a Delaware corporation. Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law contains provisions for the indemnification and insurance of directors, officers, employees and agents of a Delaware corporation against liabilities that they may incur in their capacities as such. Those provisions have the following general effects:

(a) A Delaware corporation may indemnify a person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with any action, suit or proceeding (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation) if the person acted in good faith and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe the person's conduct was unlawful.

(b) A Delaware corporation may indemnify a person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation in an action or suit by or in the right of the corporation against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the personal reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, except that no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged liable to the corporation (except under certain circumstances).

(c) A Delaware corporation must indemnify a present or former director or officer against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with any action, suit or proceeding to the extent that such person has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of the action, suit or proceeding.

(d) A Delaware corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation against liability asserted against such person and incurred by such person in any such capacity or arising from such person's status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against such liability under Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law.

Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws

The Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws contain provisions to the general effect that the Company shall, to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law, indemnify any person who is or was a director or officer of the Company against liabilities that such person may incur in such person's capacities as such. In addition, pursuant to Section 102(b)(7) of the Delaware General Corporation Law, the Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides that a director of the Company shall not be personally liable to the Company or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, provided that such provision shall not eliminate or limit the liability of a director:

- (a) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the Company or its stockholders;
- (b) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;
- (c) under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law (relating to unlawful payment of dividends or stock repurchases); or
- (d) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

The Company also maintains directors' and officers' insurance covering certain liabilities that may be incurred by directors and officers in the performance of their duties.

The foregoing description of certain provisions of the Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws is qualified in its entirety by the Company's actual Restated Certificate of Incorporation, filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2010 and the Company's actual Amended and Restated By-Laws, filed as Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Commission on February 23, 2017.

Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits.

The Exhibit Index is hereby incorporated by reference.

Item 9. Undertakings.

The undersigned Company hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) to include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if total dollar value securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) under the Securities Act if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement; and

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(iii) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (1)(i) and (1)(ii) do not apply if the registration statement is on Form S-8 and information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Company pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference herein.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

The Company hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Company's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Company pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Company has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Company of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Company in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Company will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

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Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Company certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Denver, State of Colorado, on August 4, 2017.

SM Energy Company

By: /s/ Javan D. Ottoson

Name: Javan D. Ottoson

Title: President and Chief Executive Officer

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints each of Javan D. Ottoson and A. Wade Pursell with full power to act alone, as his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) and supplements to this registration statement, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in connection therewith, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or any of them, or their or his or her substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the date indicated.

SIGNATURE	TITLE	DATE
<u>/s/ Javan D. Ottoson</u> Javan D. Ottoson	President, Chief Executive Officer, and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	August 4, 2017
<u>/s/ A. Wade Pursell</u> A. Wade Pursell	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	August 4, 2017
<u>/s/ Mark T. Solomon</u> Mark T. Solomon	Vice President — Controller and Assistant Secretary (Principal Accounting Officer)	August 4, 2017
<u>/s/ William D. Sullivan</u> William D. Sullivan	Chairman of the Board of Directors	August 4, 2017
<u>/s/ Larry W. Bickle</u> Larry W. Bickle	Director	August 4, 2017
<u>/s/ Stephen R. Brand</u> Stephen R. Brand	Director	August 4, 2017
<u>/s/ Loren M. Leiker</u> Loren M. Leiker	Director	August 4, 2017
<u>/s/ Ramiro G. Peru</u> Ramiro G. Peru	Director	August 4, 2017
<u>/s/ Julio M. Quintana</u> Julio M. Quintana	Director	August 4, 2017
<u>/s/ Rose M. Robeson</u> Rose M. Robeson	Director	August 4, 2017

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EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description of Exhibit
4.1	Restated Certificate of Incorporation of SM Energy Company, as amended through June 1, 2010 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2010 filed with the Commission on August 3, 2010).
4.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of SM Energy Company, amended and restated effective as of February 21, 2017 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Commission on February 23, 2017).
4.3	SM Energy Company Employee Stock Purchase Plan, amended and restated effective as of April 6, 2017 (incorporated herein by reference to Annex A to the registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the Commission on April 13, 2017).
5.1*	Opinion of Holland & Hart LLP with respect to the legality of the Common Stock registered hereby.
23.1*	Consent of Holland & Hart LLP (contained in its opinion filed herewith as Exhibit 5.1).
23.2*	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
23.3*	Consent of Ryder Scott Company, L.P.
24.1*	Power of Attorney (included on the signature page to this registration statement).



August 4, 2017

Board of Directors
 SM Energy Company
 1775 Sherman Street, Suite 1200
 Denver, Colorado 80203

Re: Registration Statement on Form S-8

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to SM Energy Company, a Delaware corporation (the "*Company*"), in connection with its Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "*Commission*") on the date hereof (the "*Registration Statement*"), pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "*Securities Act*"). Pursuant to the Registration Statement, the Company is registering for issuance under the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan, as amended and restated as of May 23, 2017 (the "*Plan*"), an additional 1,268,428 shares (the "*Shares*") of the Company's common stock, par value \$0.01 per share ("*Common Stock*"). This opinion letter is furnished to you at your request to enable you to fulfill the requirements of Item 601(b)(5) of Regulation S-K under the Securities Act in connection with the Registration Statement, and no opinion is expressed or may be implied herein as to any matter pertaining to the contents of the Registration Statement other than as to the valid issuance of the Shares.

As the basis for the opinion hereinafter expressed, we have reviewed originals or copies of the following:

- A. an executed copy of the Registration Statement;
- B. a copy of the Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company, as filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware on November 17, 1992, as amended by the Certificate of Amendment, filed June 22, 1998, the Certificate of Amendment, filed May 31, 2001, the Certificate of Amendment, filed May 26, 2005 and the Certificate of Amendment, filed June 1, 2010, and certified as of a recent date;
- C. a copy of the Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company effective as of February 21, 2017;
- D. a copy of the resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors of the Company relating to, among other things, adoption of the Plan and approval of the Registration Statement;

Holland & Hart LLP Attorneys at Law

Phone (303)290-1600 Fax (303)290-1606 www.hollandhart.com

6380 S. Fiddlers Green Circle Suite 500 Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Aspen Billings Boise Boulder Carson City Cheyenne Colorado Springs Denver Denver Tech Center Jackson Hole Las Vegas Reno Salt Lake City Santa Fe Washington, D.C.

- E. a report of the inspector of election at the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Company held on May 23, 2017, indicating that the adoption of the Plan was approved by the stockholders; and
- F. the certificate of good standing covering the Company, issued by the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware as of a recent date (the "*Good Standing Certificate*").

We have relied upon the foregoing and upon certificates and other assurances of officers of the Company and others as to factual matters without having independently verified such factual matters. We have assumed for purposes of this opinion: (a) information contained in documents reviewed by us is true, complete and correct; (b) the genuineness and authenticity of all signatures on original documents; (c) the accuracy and completeness of all documents delivered to us and the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals; (d) the conformity to originals of all documents submitted to us as copies (including telecopies); (e) the accuracy, completeness and authenticity of certificates of public officials; (f) the legal capacity of all natural persons; and (g) the due authorization, execution and delivery of all documents by parties other than the Company.

We are opining herein as to the Delaware General Corporation Law, as amended, and we express no opinion with respect to the applicability thereto, or the effect thereon, of the laws of any other jurisdiction, or as to any matters of municipal law or the laws of any local agencies within any state.

Based on the foregoing, and subject to the qualifications, assumptions and limitations stated herein, we are of the opinion that the Shares have been duly authorized for issuance pursuant to the Plan and, when issued in accordance with the terms of the Plan, will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

We expressly disavow any obligation to advise you with respect to future changes in law or in our knowledge or as to any event or change of condition occurring subsequent to the date of this letter. This opinion is for your benefit in connection with the Registration Statement and may be relied upon by you and by persons entitled to rely upon it pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Securities Act.

We consent to the filing of this opinion as Exhibit 5.1 to the Registration Statement. In giving these consents, we do not thereby admit that we are within the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act or the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Holland and Hart LLP

Holland and Hart LLP

Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement (Form S-8) pertaining to the SM Energy Company Employee Stock Purchase Plan of SM Energy Company of our reports dated February 23, 2017, with respect to the consolidated financial statements of SM Energy Company and Subsidiaries and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of SM Energy Company and Subsidiaries included in its Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2016, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP
Denver, Colorado
August 4, 2017

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT PETROLEUM ENGINEERS AND GEOLOGISTS

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-8 of SM Energy Company of information contained in our audit report, as of December 31, 2016, setting forth estimates of revenues from SM Energy Company's oil, gas and NGL reserves.

/s/ Ryder Scott Company, L.P.
RYDER SCOTT COMPANY, L.P.
TBPE Firm Registration No. F1580
Houston, Texas
August 4, 2017
