

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

| OMB APPROVAL                                 |           |
|--|-----------|
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**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *<br><u>GARDINER WILLIAM J</u><br><br>(Last) (First) (Middle)<br><br><u>1775 SHERMAN ST</u><br><u>SUITE 1200</u><br><br>(Street)<br><u>DENVER CO 80203</u><br><br>(City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br><u>SM Energy Co [ SM ]</u> | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner<br>Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) |
|  | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br><u>05/26/2011</u>     |   |
|  | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)                  |   |

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) |   | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) |            |       | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|------------|-------|---|--|--|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V | Amount  | (A) or (D) | Price |   |  |  |
| Common Stock; \$.01 Par Value   | 05/26/2011                           |  | A <sup>(1)</sup>               |   | 3,218   | A          | \$0   | 45,148  | D  |  |

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) |   | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) |     | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|--|-----|---|--|--|---|--|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V |  | (A)  | (D) |   |  |  |   |  |

**Explanation of Responses:**

1. On May 26, 2011, the reporting person was granted 3,218 shares of the issuer's common stock for compensation as a board member. These shares are earned ratably during the service period pursuant to the reporting person's election and are restricted until May 23, 2013.

**Remarks:**

Karin M. Writer (Attorney-In-Fact)

05/26/2011

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.