FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| OMB APPROVAL | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number: | 3235-0287 | | | | | | | |
| Estimated average burden | | | | | | | | |
| hours per response: | 0.5 | | | | | | | |

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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

| | | | | | | _ | | | | _ | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------|--|--|---|--|---|-------------------------|--|-----|--------------------|---|--------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|---|--|--|
| Name and Address of Reporting Person* | | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol SM Energy Co [SM] | | | | | | | | | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) | | | | | |
| Copeland David W | | | | | | | | | | | | | - | Director | | | 10% Ov | vner | | |
| (Last) | (First) | A) | /liddle) | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 07/02/2012 | | | | | | | | X | Officer (give title below) | | | Other (s below) | specify | | |
| 1775 SHERMAN STREET | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Sr. VP, GC & Corp. Sec. | | | | | |
| SUITE 1200 | | | | | | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | | | Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person | | | | | |
| (Street) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | - | | - | a Person | |
| DENVER | CO | 8 | 0203 | | | | | | | | | | | | Form filed by More than One Reporting | | | g r eisoii | | |
| (City) | (State |) (Z | ľip) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | T | able I - No | n-Deri | vativ | e Se | curiti | ies Acq | μired, | Dis | osed of | f, or E | 3enefi | cially Ow | ned | | | | | |
| D D | | | | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | | | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | | Transaction Disp Code (Instr. | | | curities Acquired (A) or osed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and | | | Beneficiall Following | | Form: | nership : Direct (D) lirect (I) : 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership | |
| | | | | | | | | | Code | v | Amount | (A) or (D) | | Price | Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | | | | (Instr. 4) | |
| Common Stock; \$.01 Par Value 06 | | | | | 9/2012 | | | J ⁽¹⁾ | | 341 | | A | \$41.7435 | 36,434 | | D | | | | |
| Common Stock; \$.01 Par Value 07/ | | | | | 02/2012 | | | | M | | 1,940 |) | A | (2) | 38,374 | | | D | | |
| Common Stock; \$.01 Par Value 07/ | | | | 07/02 | 2/2012 | 2 | | | M | | 190 | | Α | (3) | 38,564 | | D | | | |
| | | | Table II - | | | | | | | | sed of, o | | | | ed | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | e (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Dat if any (Month/Day/Ye | Co | , Transaction Code (Inst | | | | 6. Date Exercisable Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | е | Securities Underly | | erlying | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number derivative Securities Beneficial Owned Following Reported | e s illy | Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| | | | | Co | ode | v | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisal | | Expiration Date | Title | | Amount or Number of Shares | mber | | ion(s) | | | |
| Restricted Stock Units | (2) | 07/02/2012 | | | М | | | 1,940 | 07/02/20 | 12 | 07/02/2012 | | mmon tock | 1,940 | \$0 | 3,878 | | D | | |
| Restricted Stock Units | (3) | 07/02/2012 | | | M | | | 190 | 07/02/20 | 12 | 07/02/2012 | | mmon tock | 190 | \$0 | 1,131 | ı] | D | | |

Explanation of Responses:

- 1. The reporting person purchased 341 shares of the issuer's common stock on June 29, 2012, through the Issuer's Employee Stock Purchase Program.
- 2. Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of stock. The restricted stock units vest as follows: 970 shares on July 1, 2011, 1,940 shares on July 2, 2012, and 3,878 shares on July 1, 2013. The vested shares will be issued to the reporting person on the vesting dates, at which time all restrictions on the vested shares will lapse.
- 3. Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of stock. The restricted stock unit grant vests over a three-year period, with 1/7th vesting on July 2, 2012, 2/7th vesting on July 1, 2013, and 4/7th vesting on July 1, 2014. The vested shares will be issued to the reporting person on the vesting dates, at which time all restrictions on the vested shares will lapse.

Remarks:

Karin M. Writer (Attorney-In-

Fact)

07/05/2012

** 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.